DIOGO JOTA • 10,000 LFC GOALS • FABINHO • BILL SHANKLY • KIRKBY LATEST • XMAS PREZZIES

LIVERPOOL FC



Stay strong Big Virg

Get well soon big man

We are together

Always remember YNWA

A lion like you will be back

Come back better than before

TO

VIRGIL

Get well soon legend

WITH LOVE AND SUPPORT FROM THE LFC FAMILY

Trust this amazing team

All the best on your recovery

You will be stronger

We'll wait for you

We're with you

Get well soon bro

You'll never walk alone

Take the time and heal right





Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine



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ACCLAIM FOR CLEM

We love the new Ray Clemence tribute mural near the stadium in Anfield, created by MurWalls with the support of the legendary former Liverpool and England goalkeeper and his family and fellow ex-players Alan Kennedy, David Fairclough and David Johnson. Ray's daughter Sarah tweeted: "So, so proud to help unveil this amazing mural of my dad @RayClem1 next to Anfield today. Although his health wouldn't let him attend he is beaming with pride #ynwa #LFC."




"RAY HAD EVERYTHING. HE'S QUICK HE DOESNT WANNA BE BEATEN. HE'S JUST A GREAT GOALKEEPER"
- Bill Shankly
APPEARANCES
665
City of Liverpool
WYLVA
ROAD L4

WITH YOU, BIG MAN

When the Liverpool Echo invited Reds fans to submit their get-well-soon messages to **Virgil van Dijk**, they were inundated by the response – this is just a tiny sample from the thousands around the world that have got our number four's back



Get well soon big man. Come back stronger and better than before! YNWA
Nicholas, Lowing, UK

We are together all the way big man. I'm sure the boys will fight for you. Come back stronger and better. Quick recovery #YNWA
Brian Kimathi, Kenya

Cepat sembuh virg, kami bersamamu, kembali lebih kuat
(Get well soon Virg, we are with you, come back stronger)
M Ikhwanun, Indonesia

Stay strong Big Virg. We're with you!!
Yohann T, France

Chin up big man, all the best on your recovery #YNWA!!!
Pete Bannon, UK

Hoi Virgil, veel sterkte met het herstel van je blessure en hopelijk kom je er zo goed bovenop dat je nog sterker, sneller en slimmer wordt dan dat je al was voor deze blessure . Je kunt het!!
(Hi Virgil, good luck with the recovery of your injury and hopefully you will recover so well that you will become even stronger, faster and smarter than you were before this injury. You can do it!!)
Sinne Jonkman, Netherlands

Get well soon Virgil, you handsome devil!
Oskari Sairanen, Finland

Get well soon big guy!
Jimmy Moran, England

Get well soon big man. The boys will keep things ticking over until you are back. Keep safe, be well and recover
Mark Sinfield, Australia

Get well soon bro, I know you will be stronger than ever
Nabil Mansour, England

You've been a breath of fresh air around our beautiful football club from the day you arrived, and that's only from the outside looking in. I can only imagine what pain you're going through right now, but if anyone can come back 10x stronger from this, it is our centre-half, our number 4, Virgil van Dijk! YNWA
Nigel Prentice, Northern Ireland

Hey big man, keep your head up and spirits high. You will come back better and stronger YNWA
Amarjit Singh, UK

Get well soon legend, we know you'll be back stronger
Ben Langley, England

Speed recovery bro, the team is waiting for you...your presence means the world to the Reds family
Benedikt Mafishe, Zimbabwe

Keep your head up mate
Ganesh Patel, UK

Good recovery, hope you come back sooner YNWA
Claus Jorn Schmidt, Greenland

Get well soon big man
Graham O'Sullivan, Ireland

You'll be back stronger and keeping those clean-sheets again soon. We support you all the way and you'll never walk alone
Tim Leech, UK

Chin up big man. You will come back stronger
Naushad Essa, South Africa

Virgil, hope everything goes well with your recovery. Absolutely gutted that this has happened. I know that you will come back stronger from this and I can't wait for you be back on the pitch absolutely bossing it. Always remember YNWA
David White, UK

I hope you're okay Virgil, in life these things happen. You're strong physically and mentally and you will come back from this hungrier than ever. You'll never walk alone
Shay Stone, England

Hey Virgil, I hope you have a great and fast recovery. We will miss to see you in the field, you are the best CB in the world. You deserve nothing but love and support in this journey. You'll never walk alone
Elisa Valladares, Chile

Big Virg, you epitomise everything this club is about: togetherness, excellence, coming back stronger when the worst is upon us. At the end of the storm is a golden sky. You'll never walk alone. With love from America
Eric Mathis, USA



Take care mate. We'll see you when you are ready YNWA
Jim Mackrell, England

Get well soon and speedy recovery. You will come back stronger
Piyarat Yoshizaki, Thailand

Wish you a speedy recovery & come back stronger. You can do it YNWA
Fahad Alharthi, Saudi Arabia

Get well soon VVD
Chris Nwoye, Nigeria



Big Virgil.... please get strong soon. We will definitely miss you but we are sure you will be back even stronger
Ayodele Ayomide, Nigeria

Get well soon Virgil. You are the one of the best players in the club's history and one of the best defenders of all time. I know you will come back stronger then ever
Darren O'Neill, Ireland

Our wall, hope you get well as soon as possible. We'll wait for you – don't forget to rest!
Arda Ertas, Turkey

Yo big man, you're always my inspiration, keep up the spirit...take a good rest and you'll be back better
Dedy Setyo, Indonesia

We will miss you, we rely on you so heavily and maybe we as supporters and the team need to learn not to for a while. To find another way. To support Gomez, Matip and Fab to do a wonderful job as we know they will. I wish you well in your journey. You can only come back fitter and stronger and for that we must be patient
Gee Tooby, UK

Virgil mate, you will be back stronger than ever I'm sure of it. What you've managed to bring to this team has truly changed the trajectory of the club and also helped make me feel better when I've felt low. Hopefully you'll be back soon and not just winning trophies but making peoples lives more enjoyable YNWA
Ben Cowen, England

Wishing you a speedy recovery. You have been immense for our club. You and the boys allowed us to dream again. Keep your head up bro
Blake Staal, Botswana

God bless you Virgil, I send you my loves and prayers from Malaysia
Carl Allan Engkang, Malaysia



Big VVD, best defender I have ever seen, get well soon. I'm so sad for you but a lion like you doesn't need a long time to be back again. Our man, our hero, one of us
Sameh Bassam, Palestine

Get well soon big man. We're all waiting for the best player in the world to return. YNWA
Sidharth R, India

Good luck big man on your way back. YNWA
Kevin Mcilwaine, Northern Ireland

Get well soon Virg! Hope you have a speedy recovery and smash it when you're back. We love you big man YNWA
Adam Black, UK

Kila mtu anajua umuhimu wako katika mafanikio ya timu yetu (Liverpool), kila mtu anaguswa na hali yako unayoipitia wakati huu. Sisi shabiki wa Liverpool kutoka Tanzania kwa pamoja tunakutakia upone haraka na Mwenyezi Mungu akupe kibali cha uponyaji, We love you Big Van. Everyone knows your importance in the success of our team (Liverpool), everyone is touched by your current situation. We Liverpool fans from Tanzania together wish you a speedy recovery and may God grant you healing
George Sylvester, Tanzania

Best of luck with the recovery Virgil, I would give you my knee ligaments if I could. Best footballer I've ever seen, and you'll come back 10 times the player you already are
Fred Greaves, England

Get well soon big man. You are our heart of defence. Be back stronger
Ahmed Nisbah, Maldives

Virg, you're stronger than any injury. You'll be back in no time, and so will we. Meet you by the Kop in 2021, calm as you like
Steph Jayne, UK

The sky cannot be covered by clouds forever as darkness cannot cover the light forever...
Thakur Koirala, Egypt

Gute Besserung [get well soon] big man! We are with you all the way YNWA
Alan Roberts, Germany

*Force a toi Big Virg! On est tous derriere toi!
(Force to you Big Virg! We're all behind you!)*
Tychique Kiako, France

Big Virgil, I know this won't be easy, but I also know you've got what it takes to get through this trying time. Be positive and strong. We love u
Landslot Francis, Ghana

Get well soon!! Best wishes for a full and speedy recovery!!
Adam S, USA

Stay positive big man! Big love from Singapore YNWA
Salimi Rohaimi, Singapore

Bro ur my inspiration, the only Liverpool shirt I ever had is ur name on the back. I don't know if u will read this message or not but I'm gonna pray for u everyday till u stand on Anfield again
Woody Virgil, Hong Kong

Absolutely gutted for you big man. Millions of us in the red family send you positive vibes to focus on your recovery. Top man, Virg!
Mike Johnson, Ireland

Hey VVD, just as our captain Hendo said, the comeback is always stronger than the setback YNWA
Juma Hamso, Tanzania

Chin up big man! You'll be back soon enough. Wishing you a speedy recovery, you'll be missed!
Chris Robbo, Liverpool

All the best with the recovery fella, get yourself fit you'll need that knee better for walking up to collect another winner's medal in May
Dean Ryan, Ireland

Stay strong pal. You will get through this knowing that millions of Reds all over the world are behind you
Andrew Esdaile, Qatar

Speedy recovery big man, you will be missed
Marius Lie, Norway



Big man, you will be missed but we will carry on to do greater things for you and for the club. You will return stronger. You will never walk alone
Francis Dogbatse, Ghana

You are the best, we wish you a speed recovery and you will be back stronger
Yousef Tarek, Saudi Arabia

You'll come back stronger. God will heal you. YNWA
Jewel JJ, India

Get well soon big Virg! I'm going to miss you 'calm as you like' in our back-line but we're going to go back-to-back for you
Guthrie Edson, USA



Good luck in your recovery Virg, I know you'll come back stronger. We will be by your side as always
Mohammed Alsalman, Saudi Arabia

Love you big Virg! You'll come back stronger, we have no doubt!
Elie Touma, Dubai

Get well soon Virgil! You'll smash this rehabilitation better than anyone we've ever seen before. Hang in there man, we miss you
George Owen, England

Get well soon Champ. We love you sooo much. Wish you all the best. Come back strong #VirgilTheGladiator #TheComanderofdefence
Raphael Adu, Ghana

We love you. Stay strong Virg
Sean Bonney, Ireland

You have the strength of all the Reds around the world behind you! Stand tall big man and You'll Never Walk Alone
Alexander Heilman, USA



Keep going lad. You'll be back stronger and you'll learn a lot about yourself on the journey. We're all here with you sending love YNWA
Ben Potter, UK



You are a warrior and you never give up fighting. I and millions of Liverpool fans around the globe hope you'll read this it will give you a smile and more strength to go through this. We are with you in every step of the way. God bless you
Harry Qinami, Germany

Praying for healing and strength for you. It can't be easy what you're going through but I know you'll return better and stronger than ever before YNWA
Chris Mackie, South Africa

Best of wishes on your recovery big Virg, if anyone can come back stronger it's our big colossus centre-half. Can't wait till you're back out there lifting more trophies with the lads
William, Northern Ireland

Get well soon brother and we're a 100% behind you. Your biggest fan from Houston, TX
Brouk L, USA

DEADLY DUO **#1**

Assist-provider Andy Robertson takes it in his stride as Sadio Mane leaps with delight after his early goal in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park. The Senegalese ace had previously scored once 'across the park' – back in December 2016 and much, much later in proceedings, to seal a famous win amid wild scenes in the away end.



DEADLY DUO **#2**

This time there were only supporters' images printed on banners *in situ* when Robbo swept past Everton defender Seamus Coleman and picked out Mane for an unstoppable side-footed finish into the roof of the net. It came after just two minutes and 15 seconds – Liverpool's fastest in a derby in the Premier League era.











Work Together.
Stand Together.
Achieve Together.

Find out more at
liverpoolfc.com/RedTogether









TELL US NEVER

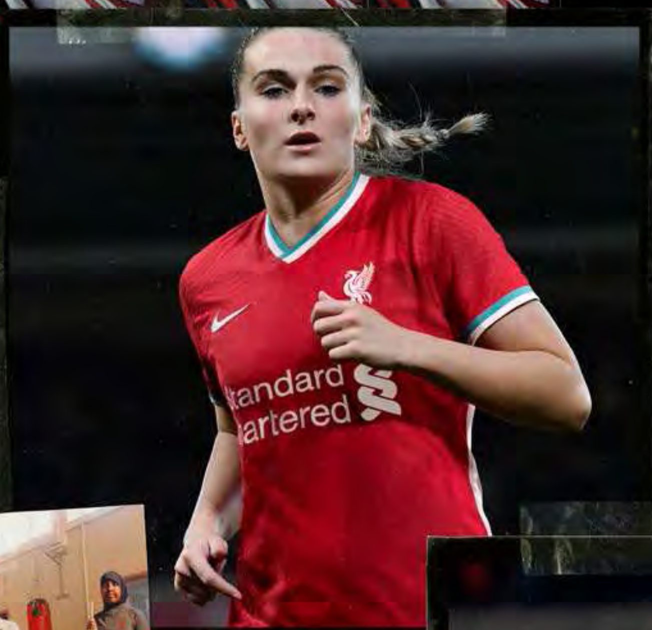
When the world thinks it can't be done, boss it.



Join the family



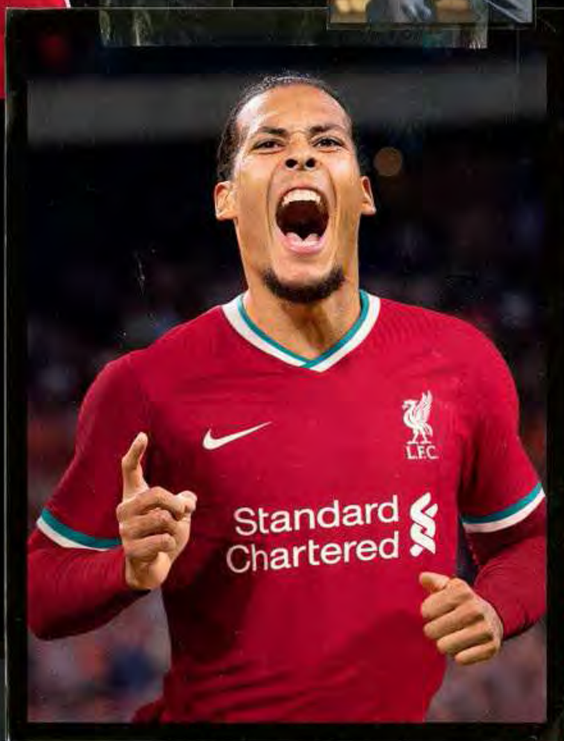









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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

LIVE WIRE

The boss tells him to “be lively” on the pitch. Diogo Jota says simply, “I’m not a person who stops – when I score one, I want to score two, and then I want to make it three”






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Chartered
L.F.C.
20

There will always be speculation in football and eight months ago it was the name of Wolverhampton Wanderers forward Diogo Jota that was appearing on pages of Spanish national daily sport paper Marca.

"Diogo Jota could be an ideal target for Atletico Madrid with his market value anything but discouraging for a player with such ability," they wrote. "His extraordinary performances haven't gone unnoticed by several European clubs. His value is set at 35 million euros although this may vary as his former club maintain a good relationship with his agent, Jorge Mendes."

Atletico were already well aware of Jota's talents. After all, they signed him on a five-year contract from Portuguese club Pacos Ferreira in 2016, loaned him out to Porto and Wolves for a season apiece and subsequently sold Diogo to the men in Old Gold in 2018. He never made his first-team debut for Atleti.

Jota was only 19 when me moved to Madrid, but with *Los Rojiblancos* also re-signing 32-year-old club legend Fernando Torres that summer, manager Diego Simeone opted for experience over potential and Diogo was loaned out to Porto.

"I didn't play for them because I was not there," replies Diogo when asked why there were no competitive appearances for *Atleti*. "I was there in pre-season and played in friendly games, but after the season started I went on loan to Porto.

"I spoke to the manager and for me, at my age at the time, it was important to get game-time. If that was not going to happen so often, like I would like it to, the better thing was to go out on loan and that is what happened."

He had a good season with Porto, netting eight goals in 27 Primeira Liga games and one in the Champions League against Leicester City, but it wasn't enough to convince Simeone to give him an opportunity.

Instead, Atletico re-signed Diego Costa from Chelsea for a club-record transfer fee and Jota was told he could go out on loan again. Porto were keen to take him back, but Diogo thought coming to England would be a better career move, even if it meant dropping down a division.

"After Porto I went to Wolves and it was a risky move," he admits. "I was playing Champions League for Porto but I came to the Championship to play for Wolves.

"I knew it already, but I realised the Championship is one of the toughest leagues to be playing in because of the amount of games and the intensity of them.

"In the end, it was a good move for me because we came up to the Premier League straightaway in a season when I played so many games. It was really important for my development as a player.

"When I was a junior we always thought English football was the best because of the intensity and the way everyone can beat everyone. That's special and a unique case in football.

"We already knew Portuguese players are good and maybe now that idea is coming to English clubs more. A lot of Portuguese players are having the opportunity to play in this country and back in Portugal I think everyone is proud to have so many Portuguese players in the best league in the world."

Jota fired Wolves to promotion to the top-flight during his first season in the Black Country, ending the 2017/18 campaign as the club's leading scorer with 18 goals. Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo had made his mind up that he wanted to keep Jota in a matter of months. In January 2018 the club met the £12.6m escape clause in Diogo's Atletico contract to turn his loan into a permanent transfer.

Part of a sizeable Portuguese contingent at Molineux, he quickly became close friends with midfielder Ruben Neves. The pair would regularly meet for dinner in Aromas de Portugal – a coffee shop on Wolverhampton's King Street, situated just around the corner from The Billy Wright pub – where they would eat francesinha, a sandwich traditional in Porto. They also learned to play cricket during breaks between training sessions.

"I'm bad at everything," Jota admitted during an interview with *The Guardian*. "But I try to bat and to catch the ball. I can't throw that way [with a straight arm]. I throw like it's baseball."

On the pitch he continued to flourish. He netted 26 goals in 85 appearances for Wolves during seasons 2018/19 and 2019/20 – 16 in the Premier League, nine in the Europa League and one in the FA Cup.

He was then linked with that return to Madrid, but it was Liverpool who completed a move for the 23-year-old in September with Atletico instead signing Luis Suarez from Barcelona four days later. Jota now believes his time with Wolves has helped him to hit the ground running at Anfield.

I PLAYED MANY GAMES FOR WOLVES IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE SO I KNOW IT, AND NOW I AM IN A TEAM AIMING TO WIN THE TITLE





"Like I said when I signed, it was an easy decision to come to a club like Liverpool that are the world champions. The first contact was through my agent, of course, and he told me about the interest. I started to think how it would be a great opportunity to play here.

"I think everything went well with the transfer and now I am here to help this club reach their goals.

"The Premier League is a special league, the best in the world, so when you are able to play a great number of games in it you are always better-prepared to do better things. I think that's the case.

"I played many games for Wolves in the Premier League so I know the league. Now I am in a top team that is aiming to win the title, but I think what happened before has helped me to be the player that I am now."

Jota played in three of Wolves' four closely-contested Premier League games against the Reds during the last two seasons and was on the losing side – narrowly – in all of them. He also appeared in their 2-1 FA Cup success at Molineux in January 2019, a tie in which Curtis Jones made his LFC debut. With the two clubs due to meet at Anfield in the first week of December, he's already looking forward to a reunion.

"We lost our Premier League games to Liverpool so that is why I don't really remember them!" he laughs. "But I do remember an FA Cup game when we won. When you win, it sticks more in your mind, but I know how hard it is to play against Liverpool.

"Now I know that it felt the same for them to play against us at the time, so I think in the future the game between Liverpool and Wolves will be special for me of course."

Given how well he has started his Liverpool career, it wouldn't be a surprise if Wolves at home is another game that Jota scores in. After sealing a 3-1 Premier League win against Arsenal on his Anfield debut, he struck three big goals in three big home wins in the space of a week.

His header from Sadio Mane's cross secured a 2-1 win against Sheffield United and his close range-tap in from Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass opened the scoring in a 2-0 Champions League victory against Midtjylland. It was also the 10,000th goal scored in first-team games by a Liverpool player, quite a milestone to have your name against.

Then, to complete a goal-filled week, Jota came off the bench against West Ham and his right-footed finish, from a sublime Xherdan Shaqiri pass, ensured a 2-1 comeback win after he'd also had a goal chalked off by VAR.





IT'S A QUESTION OF MENTALITY AND THE SECRET IS TO NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT, TO ALWAYS WANT MORE – I'M PLAYING FOR THE BEST TEAM IN MY CAREER AND SCORING GOALS IS MY WAY OF PLAYING FOOTBALL

"I'm not the tallest player but I have scored some headed goals before," he says when asked about his winner against the Blades. "I remember my first one because it was the league first game I scored in, in Portugal with Pacos. I scored a great goal in the first half and then I scored a header. That was my first headed goal and it finished Pacos de Ferreira 3 Academica 2.

"Last season, playing in the Europa League, I scored a header for Wolves against Besiktas. That was the last one I scored with my head before my goal against Sheffield [United].

"Scoring the 10,000th goal was a special moment and I'm very proud of it because now I am in the history books of this magnificent club. It is a great mark for me in my career so I was very pleased to get that goal and for it to be in a game we won was the most important thing.

"Against West Ham the manager said to be lively when I came on because at that time of the game the other team gets tired. We needed movement and fortunately I got the space for a great pass from Shaq and I could score."

That particular goal made Jota the first Liverpool player since Luis Garcia in 2004 to score in his opening three top-flight games at Anfield for the club and only the fifth player in the club's history – Tommy Robertson (1898), Peter Cormack (1972) and Sir Kenny Dalglish (1977) being the others – to have achieved such a feat.

An article on FourFourTwo's website earlier this year described Jota as "a streaky player" after he scored five goals in four days in December 2019. Yet if you look at the bigger picture, he has now netted goals in English football in July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March and April. If scoring 51 goals in ten different months across a little over three seasons makes you 'streaky' then long may it continue.

His goalscoring streak certainly continued against Atalanta in the Champions League. Jota netted his first hat-trick for the Reds – and only the fourth treble ever scored in an away European game by a Liverpool player – in an outstanding 5-0 victory. It took his tally to seven goals in 10 games, yet he only started in half of them with two of those strikes coming as a substitute.

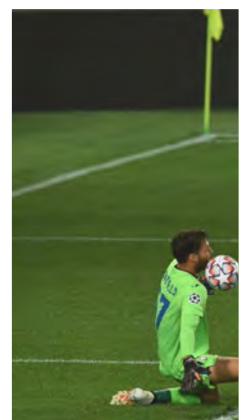
During his time at Wolves, Jota struck three hat-tricks (against Leicester City, Espanyol and Besiktas) plus doubles in three other matches. He's a character who always wants more.

"I think it's a question of mentality. I'm happy when I score one, but I'm not a person who stops. I want to score two and when I score two I want to make it three.

"Maybe that's the secret to it: to never be satisfied with what you've got at the moment and to always want more from the game.

"I'm playing for the best team in my career so far and scoring goals is my way of playing football. The first one against Atalanta was my favourite because it unlocked the game. It was a good moment for me






100%




DIOGO J.
20



and for the team because after that we could manage the game our way."

Due to Wolves' involvement in the Europa League, his first game of season 2019/20 came on 25 July 2019 and his last on 11 August 2020. The first coronavirus lockdown meant no football was played during April and May, but Wolves endured a 13-month season that lasted for 383 days and consisted of 59 games in ten different countries.

Jota was then given three weeks off by Espirito Santo but missed almost their entire 12-day pre-season due to being on international duty with Portugal.

Whether that will have an impact on his fitness as the campaign progresses is unclear and while he believes that professional footballers should just get on with it rather than complain, he also feels the lack of a normal pre-season is being reflected in some surprising results.

"It was the longest season ever played here in England because of the pandemic. This season is strange as well because there was no pre-season, but in the end we are professionals so it is our jobs to stay fit and to follow the manager's idea in every single game.

"It is always hard to win the Premier League, but this is a strange season. Because of the pandemic the clubs didn't have the normal pre-season and that is affecting everyone.

"We are seeing many surprising results. We all know that in the Premier League anyone can beat everyone, but I think because this season is not normal we need to be extra-careful with every match that we have because we know what can happen if we are not at our best."

Which brings us to the elephant on the Zoom, as it is these days. Aston Villa seven...

"The Aston Villa game is one to forget. We need to learn from that game, but things that happened in it were not usual. That game is done and we as a team need to learn from it – because we know these things can happen in football – and keep on going.

"Every club is struggling a little bit, but it is still 11 v 11 in every single game and we have to win as many games as we can."

Winning as many games as they could made Jürgen Klopp's men Premier League champions last season and retaining the league title is the prime target now. Jota was happy at Wolves but remains crystal clear about why he became a Liverpool player.

"I want to win titles. That's my goal. I don't have many in my career, but I am now in a team that fights for titles and I will be very pleased if we can win the maximum that we can.

"This creates challenges and pressure, but it is part of the job and happened the same for me when I played in Portugal with Pacos and then when I went to Porto. Obviously teams aim for different things, but here we don't have a margin for error when we play the big teams. We are here to be champions and we will do everything we can to do it.

"We work hard every day for this because we want to win it again. For me, it would be the first time, so I am really looking forward to trying to achieve that."

Words: Chris McLoughlin

I WANT TO WIN TITLES. THAT'S MY GOAL. I DON'T HAVE MANY IN MY CAREER, BUT I AM NOW IN A TEAM THAT FIGHTS FOR TITLES AND I WILL BE VERY PLEASED IF WE CAN WIN THE MAXIMUM THAT WE CAN



DIOGO MAKES HISTORY

The Reds attacker brought up a Liverpool landmark when he netted the club's 10,000th goal last month – and here are the other LFC milestone goals along the way

GOAL 1 JOCK SMITH 1892

Liverpool 8 Higher Walton 0

Lancashire League 3 September 1892

The Scottish inside-right had the honour of scoring the club's first official goal 15 minutes into their first league game at Anfield.

Kilmarnock-born Smith was said to be "a grand acquisition" for newly-formed Liverpool "possessing rare speed and good dribbling power" and his goal was one of two he claimed in that maiden fixture which was watched by a crowd of 300.

The *Liverpool Echo* reported: "The visitors showed good defence against the home attack, but after a good shot from [Joe] Pearson, Smith sent in a scoring shot a quarter-of-an-hour from the start."



Words: William Hughes



GOAL 1,000 BOBBY ROBINSON **1906**

Liverpool 5 Aston Villa 2

First Division 24 November 1906

Winger Bobby Robinson, centre-row far-left in the team photo, brought up this milestone with one of two goals for the defending champions in a defeat of Villa.

In the notes for the matchday programme for the game, it was said of Robinson and fellow wide man Arthur Goddard: "Robinson, having tumbled to the idea of passing to his partner more frequently, the result is a wing full of initiative and potent in generating daring attacks on an opponent's goal."



First Division champions, 1905-06. *Back (left to right)*: Hewitt, Wilson, Hardy, Parry, Doig, Dunlop, Garside; *centre*: Robinson, Gorman, Murray, Hughes, Raisbeck, Cox, Fleming, Raybould, West; *front*: Goddard, Latham, Carlin.

GOAL 2,000 HARRY CHAMBERS **1925**

Liverpool 6 Newcastle United 3

First Division 25 December 1925

A Christmas Day crowd of more than 31,000 saw two strikers hit a hat-trick in an entertaining nine-goal holiday fixture.

Newcastle's Hughie Gallacher scored three times but went away empty-handed as the prolific Harry Chambers netted a treble in Liverpool's 6-3 victory, including the Reds' 2,000th goal.

The *Echo* reported that despite Gallacher's goalscoring exploits: "When Chambers, working at outside right or any old position, got into his scoring stride, Liverpool became their own true selves."

In eight-and-a-half years at Anfield he scored 151 goals in 339 games in becoming one of the Reds' great early attackers.





GOAL 3,000 JACKIE BALMER 1938

Liverpool 3 Aston Villa 0

First Division 15 October 1938

West Derby-born forward Jackie notched number 3,000 when he scored the Reds' second at the Anfield Road end as they went on to record a comfortable win over Villa.

Balmer had established himself in the Liverpool team the previous season with 13 goals and he added another 14 in all competitions throughout 1938/39.

In November 1946 he famously scored hat-tricks in three consecutive games as Liverpool went on to win the league title. He later captained the team and was employed by the club as a coach between 1952 and 1955.

GOAL 4,000 JIMMY MELIA 1958

Liverpool 3 Leyton Orient 0

Second Division 8 November 1958

Due to the suspension of football during the Second World War it would be more than two decades later when another Scouser, Jimmy Melia, scored goal number 4,000. It rounded off a hard-fought win against the East London side with all three goals coming in the second-half.

Jimmy top scored for the Reds that season with 21 league goals from his inside-left station but Liverpool finished fourth and again missed out on promotion back to the top flight in what would prove to be manager Phil Taylor's last full season in charge.





GOAL 5,000 IAN ST JOHN 1969

Watford 1 Liverpool 2

League Cup second round 3 September 1969

The Saint struck a late winner and also brought up the Reds' 5,000th goal in the process at Vicarage Road.

Liverpool had taken an early lead when former Reds keeper Bert Slater inexplicably turned a Bobby Graham cross into his own net but Keith Eddy equalised from the penalty spot on the hour mark after Geoff Strong had fouled John Williams.

Slater had made amends by producing brilliant saves to deny Chris Lawler and Roger Hunt but then allowed St John's effort to squirm through his legs 14 minutes from time.

GOAL 6,000 TERRY McDERMOTT 1980

Liverpool 1 West Ham United 0

FA Charity Shield 9 August 1980

Local lad Terry McDermott was the scorer of goal 6,000 and the stage was Wembley Stadium. The Reds midfielder tapped home the only goal of the game from close-range to win the FA Charity Shield after Alan Kennedy's shot had only been parried by Hammers keeper Phil Parkes.

Guardian journalist David Lacey proclaimed: "This time Liverpool provided a gentler reminder of the enduring qualities which could dominate another football season. The FA Charity Shield is back at Anfield for the fifth time in seven seasons...the familiar elements of Liverpool's prolonged success still there."





GOAL 7,000 JOHN ALDRIDGE 1989

Tottenham Hotspur 1 Liverpool 2

First Division 26 March 1989

The Reds kept up the pressure on league leaders Arsenal with a 2-1 win at the Gunners' North London rivals.

The Reds had fallen behind early in the second-half at White Hart Lane when centre-back Terry Fenwick converted a penalty after future Red Paul Stewart was fouled by defender Gary Ablett.

Two minutes later Liverpool had a spot-kick of their own when referee Roger Milford spotted Paul Allen's foul on Ray Houghton. Aldridge hammered an emphatic shot past keeper Erik Thorstvedt to bring Liverpool level and score the club's 7,000th goal.

GOAL 8,000 MICHAEL OWEN 2000

Southampton 3 Liverpool 3

Premier League 26 August 2000

Unfotunately this game will be better remembered for Liverpool surrendering a 3-0 lead in the final 17 minutes but Michael Owen brought up 8,000 goals as Gerard Houllier's men shared the spoils at The Dell.

Both goals were similar: left-footed angled drives from Vladimir Smicer passes after he had held off the Saints centre-backs, first Claus Lundekvam and then Dean Richards.

"It was good that he scored with his left foot – that's the side we've been working on – and his work-rate was phenomenal," said Houllier afterwards.





GOAL 9,000 SOTIRIOS KYRGIAKOS 2010

Liverpool 1 Blackpool 2

Premier League 3 October 2010

Times were tough a decade or so ago as Blackpool came away from Anfield with three points and sent Liverpool into the bottom three in the process.

First-half goals from Charlie Adam and Luke Varney had stunned the Kop and left Roy Hodgson's men in need of a response after the break. Centre-back Soto Kyrgiakos thought he had provided the spark when he headed in Steven Gerrard's free-kick eight minutes after the re-start.

It proved a false dawn however, and Liverpool's 9,000th goal became a footnote to the Reds' bigger problems of the day.



GOAL 10,000 DIOGO JOTA 2020

Liverpool 2 FC Midtjylland 0

UEFA Champions League 27 October 2020

The Portuguese forward brought up the Reds' 10,000th goal by putting the finishing touch to a wonderful move.

Gini Wijnaldum swept a ball out to Trent Alexander-Arnold on the right and the England full-back cut inside Midtjylland winger Awer Mabil before exchanging passes with Xherdan Shaqiri. He then squared the ball across the six-yard box and beyond keeper Mikkel Andersen, leaving Jota with the task of sweeping the ball into the empty net in front of the sadly empty Kop.

"Achieving that mark is always a good thing but I'm more happy with the victory today," said Diogo after the game.

SIDE BY SIDE

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Jürgen Klopp, LFC Foundation Ambassador

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

Fabinho, who's reverted from midfield destroyer to centre-back this season, explains why intensity and the high line are second nature to this Reds team from front to back



Words: William Hughes

When Fabinho arrived at Anfield in the summer of 2018, Liverpool were still looking to land their first trophy since 2012.

The tall midfielder's signing caught most people off guard. Despite the fact the Reds are routinely linked with dozens of players in the gossip columns every month, Fabinho's move went somewhat under the radar.

The Brazilian needed time to adapt to English football and bed into life in the Premier League, not being handed his first league start until late October in that debut season. Since then, he has become an integral part of a Liverpool team that has added four trophies to the club's cabinet, including a sixth European Cup plus the holy grail of the Premier League.

The 27-year-old received plenty of plaudits for his excellent display in the centre of defence at Chelsea in September and again last month when called upon to fill in after Virgil van Dijk and Joel Matip both sustained injuries in the Merseyside derby.

He produced another outstanding display in the Champions League opener against Ajax as the Reds won 1-0 in Amsterdam but the catalogue of injury setbacks continued when Fabinho himself strained a hamstring in the UEFA Champions League win over FC Midtjylland on Matchday Two.

Although the no3 is happy to deputise in the heart of the back-line if required, he is equally clear that his favoured role is that of a deep-lying anchorman in midfield.

"If I'm needed at centre-back that's fine, of course, and I will always do my best to help the team, but I believe that central midfield is my position," he explains.

"Playing central defensive midfield here in Europe is described as the number six position. I think it's a very important position for the team, it's where you work on protecting the defence but you're also involved with the start of build-up play.

"If you don't know how to do that, you can end up missing out because most teams these days try and play out from the back, so they always need this support from the central midfielder and that's what I try to do here at Liverpool.

"The role of marking, the destructive part if you like, is something I consider to be very important. I think 'destroying' is one of my strengths, it's important to me and the way we play – pressing and always communicating with the other midfielders and the attackers, it's really good.



"There are some standout central midfielders in the Premier League in this role and I think it's a position that has been of considerable importance."

Liverpool's renowned pressing puts opponents under pressure high up the field but also makes considerable demands of the midfield unit as they roam the pitch at a high intensity.

The successes it can bring have been evident – the 3-1 home win over Arsenal in September being a prime example – and Fabinho says it is an element of the game that the players are constantly honing on the training ground.







ARSENAL, FOR EXAMPLE, LOOK TO PLAY OUT FROM THE BACK AND OUR PRESSING WAS IMPORTANT IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE GAME AGAINST THEM – WE PRESSED FROM FIRST TO LAST

"It takes a lot of training, of course. It's the way we play, so that practice means communication is always easier and the movements become more automatic.

"The pressing is a characteristic of our team. We're a team that's always intense, always looking to pressure and go after the opposition. It's something that we always train for, so even if one player has to cover a space where there are two players they know to stay between them. Players can do this as there are some movements that are automatic as we are always making them.

"Communication is very important as well, for the players at the back to instruct the players upfront as they might not see the movements of the players close to them.

"Our team has played together for some time now, so we know how to do this well, how to press. That doesn't mean the opponent will never find a way out or a pass, of course, but I think it's clear that with the way we play, the way we gel as a team, it's one of our strengths.

"The ideas behind our positioning are quite similar. Sometimes we adapt. We train on tactics during the week so it's normal to adapt to the opposition you're coming up against.

"Arsenal, for example, are a team that always look to play out from the back and in the first game against us this season in the Community Shield they scored a great goal by playing out that way. They managed to find space and score.

"We knew that we had to be ready for this but we couldn't change the way we play. Pressing was one of the most important areas in the Premier League game against them at Anfield. We won 3-1 and we pressed their team from the first minute to the last.

"Yes, it's genuinely very tiring playing like this. But at the same time if you were to ask our opponents they'd say that it's tiring and frustrating as they try to play out from the back without being able to find a pass or a way out. Making things difficult for the opponent right from when they have the ball in their own defensive third was very important in getting that result."

MIDFIELD IS WHERE THE MANAGER ROTATES THE MOST, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S ALSO WHERE PLAYERS HAVE TO RUN THE MOST DURING GAMES





Those physical demands on the midfielders have seen Jürgen Klopp open to rotating his squad more in that part of the field than in defence or attack, although the players in those positions play just as vital a role in the overall effect.

"Competition for places is high in midfield," continues Fabinho. "Ever since I arrived here, the midfield is where the manager rotates the most in games, maybe because it's where players have to put in more effort, run the most kilometres during games.

"Given the high intensity our team always plays with, constantly pressing, that's probably why he rotates things in this part of the pitch where he has more options."

Another tactic that has been a part of Liverpool's make-up in the past couple of seasons has been the team's high defensive line. Whilst it came under particular scrutiny following the heavy defeat at Aston Villa last month, the setback in the West Midlands was the exception rather than the rule with the approach having brought far more pros than cons.

"Our idea is to always close down the opposition's space, to always have a high line so the opposition have minimal options," Fabinho explains. "But we know that to play with a high line there has to be constant pressure on the ball – the player on the ball can't be given any space otherwise they'll play a ball over the top with ease.

"Therefore we aim to always press the player on the ball so that if the ball does come towards our centre-backs it's not an easy, accurate ball that has been played in.

"With a longer ball it's important that our goalkeeper is alert and gets to it or for our centre-back to make a headed clearance. It's something we train on and, as I said before, some movements have become automatic from the amount of time we've played together and communication is very important. There are various factors that help us do this well."

And Fabinho, nicknamed 'Dyson' by manager Klopp last season for his ability to vacuum up space as well as loose balls, believes the Reds have the strength of character to overcome occasional bumps in the road such as that unexpected reverse at Villa Park and the Carabao Cup exit to Arsenal on penalties.

"Of course, as Liverpool we go into every competition intending to get to the final and win it. Unfortunately we were







knocked out [of the League Cup]. It was a very intense game, as was the Premier League fixture against Arsenal a few days earlier, and both teams made a lot of changes. But I think just like in the league game we played better, we created a lot more chances than Arsenal and their goalkeeper [Bernd Leno] was probably the game's best player.

"It was a bit of a hard one to take as we hit the bar and there were saves where we thought it would be a goal, but he pulled off the stop. Unfortunately we were knocked out in the penalty shoot-out, but last season we knocked them out on penalties as well. Sadly luck wasn't on our side this year but I still thought there were a lot of positives to take from that night.

"This season is a little bit different because we haven't had as much time to prepare as usual and so we need to use the full squad in all the games and we have already seen really important contributions from players like Rhys Williams and Nat Phillips.

"It's important that we have this depth in the squad and players of a high quality to cope. The League Cup gave opportunities for players like Rhys who has come from the youth team, players who have been prepared to come into the team in the way they are coached and the way they play. To have this depth in the squad is good for us players and as well as for the manager."

Ahead of the transfer deadline, Fabinho was joined at Anfield by another Brazilian, albeit one with a Spanish passport, in serial trophy-winner Thiago Alcantara and a fellow Portuguese speaker in attacker Diogo Jota. He believes the duo will augment the many qualities in the squad and help them in their quest for more silverware.

THIAGO IS AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER WHO INSPIRES CONFIDENCE GIVEN EVERYTHING HE HAS ACHIEVED. HE CAN ALSO ADD SOMETHING TO OUR TEAM, SOMETHING WE DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE





"Our squad is very strong, but we know that the signing of quality players is a plus for the team. I think Thiago's arrival will be really positive and he's a player coming from an exceptional last season at Bayern Munich.

"He's an experienced player who inspires confidence given everything he has achieved. He can also add something to our team, something we didn't have before. The quality of his passing is exceptional, he's someone that receives the ball really well between the lines. So I think his arrival, both his and Jota's, are going to be really important for us.

"Jota has started really well and already scored some really important goals for us at Anfield.

"We know that this group of players at Liverpool is very special. We're the first squad that have won the league in its Premier League format, so we've made history in that sense. But we know with the quality of our squad we can do even more and write our names further into the history books of this club.

"That's what we want and it's what we're working towards."

FAB ON BOBBY

Roberto Firmino helped Brazil make a bright start to their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign last month. Livrpool's no9 scored twice in the opening CONMEBOL region fixture against Bolivia in Sao Paulo which saw coach Tite's side win 5-0. He then provided an assist for Everton forward Richarlison in a 4-2 victory over Peru in Lima which also saw Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar hit a hat-trick to move to second place behind Pele in the Selecao's all-time goalscoring chart.

Fabinho, who was an unused substitute in both games, says Firmino is a vital cog in the Reds machine. "There are very few players that can play Bobby's role – he's always active and his defensive work is very important as well. He is first in the defensive press so we follow him and he's really good between the lines.



"You observe his quality in the little things: his control, his touch, and together with Sadio and Mo, they really 'complete' each other. They know each other's movements and play one-twos together. He's so important for the team and it's really good to have an on-form Bobby Firmino."

Brazil continue their World Cup qualifying campaign this month with games at home to Venezuela in Sao Paulo on 13 November and away to Uruguay in Montevideo on 17 November.

THREE OUT OF THREE

The Reds have now played each of their Group D rivals in this season's UEFA Champions League and here's how things are shaping up at the halfway stage of the tournament

MATCHDAY THREE: WHATTA LOTTA JOTA

Atalanta BC 0 Liverpool 5
(Jota 16, 33, 54, Salah 47, Mane 49)
3 November 2020
Atalanta Stadium.
Referee: Ovidiu Hategan (Romania)





Diogo Jota clearly doesn't care about print deadlines! But we've just about managed to include his latest salvo – in the Champions League at least – in this month's issue.

Liverpool took control of the group with a devastating display in Bergamo with Jota scoring his first hat-trick in Liverpool colours as the Reds made it three wins out of three.

Fellow forwards Mo Salah and Sadio Mane were also on target in the early minutes of the second half as the Reds produced one of their finest away-days in Europe under Jürgen Klopp – Salah moving level with Steven Gerrard as the club's top Champions League scorer with his 21st goal (excluding qualifiers).

The boss will have been just as pleased with a third consecutive clean-sheet in Group D too, with teenager Rhys Williams performing well on his first start in the tournament as Liverpool kept a free-scoring Atalanta side at bay.

Atalanta BC (3-4-1-2): Sportiello; Palomino, Djimsiti, Toloi; Mojica (Ruggeri 81), Freuler, Pasalic (Malinovskiy 63), Hateboer (Depaoli 81); Gomez (Lammers 81); Zapata, Muriel (Pessina 53).
Liverpool (4-3-3): Alisson; Alexander-Arnold (N Williams 82), R Williams, Gomez, Robertson (Keita 65); Wijnaldum (Tsimikas 82), Henderson (Milner 66), Jones; Salah, Jota (Firmino 65), Mane. Booked: Wijnaldum, Jones, Klopp.

Matchday Four (25 November):
Liverpool v Atalanta; Ajax v Midtjylland.
Matchday Five (1 December):
Liverpool v Ajax; Atalanta v Midtjylland.
Matchday Six (9 December):
Midtjylland v Liverpool; Ajax v Atalanta.

















	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool FC	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
AFC Ajax	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Atalanta BC	3	1	1	1	6	7	4
FC Midtjylland	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

MATCHDAY TWO: HOME COMFORTS

Liverpool 2 FC Midtjylland 0
(Jota 55, Salah 90 pen)
27 October 2020 Anfield.
Referee: Pawel Raczkowski (Poland)





Diogo Jota scored Liverpool's 10,000th competitive goal as the Reds made it two wins out of two in the group stage.

Trent Alexander-Arnold created the milestone goal when he crossed low for the Portuguese forward to score after playing a one-two with Xherdan Shaqiri.

There was a late scare when Anders Dreyer ghosted through only to chip the ball into the side-netting before Reds substitute Mo Salah converted a stoppage-time clincher from the penalty spot after being brought down in the box.

In doing so he moved above Ian Rush into third on the list of LFC's leading European goalscorers with what was his 21st Champions League strike for the club.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Alisson, Alexander-Arnold, Fabinho (R Williams 30), Gomez, Robertson, Shaqiri, Henderson (Wijnaldum 46), Milner, Jota (Firmino 80), Minamino (Salah 60), Origi (Mane 60). Booked: Milner
FC Midtjylland (4-2-3-1): Andersen, Andersson, Sviatchenko, Scholz, Paulinho, Cajuste (Kraev 81), Onyeka, Dreyer, Sisto (Evander 72), Mabil (Anderson 66), Kaba (Pfeiffer 81).




R.WILLIAMS
46


Standard Chartered
20
14


Standard Chartered
6


HENDERSON
14
Standard Chartered
1


Standard Chartered








Heineken



MATCHDAY ONE: DAM RIGHT

AFC Ajax 0 Liverpool 1
(Tagliafico 35 og)
21 October 2020
Johan Cruyff Arena
Referee: Dr Felix Brych





Liverpool kicked off their campaign with a narrow win courtesy of a Nicolas Tagliafico own-goal. The Argentine international left-back sliced Sadio Mane's shot into his own net to give the Reds a first-ever victory in a soggy Amsterdam.

A brilliant overhead goal-line clearance from Fabinho denied Ajax an equaliser while Adrian saved well from Quincy Promes and ex-Evertonian Davy Klaassen struck the inside of a post. Overall however it was a solid win for the Reds, for whom teenagers Curtis Jones and Rhys Williams made their Champions League debuts.

"It was not 'sunshine football' but we wanted three points and we got them," reflected a satisfied Jürgen Klopp afterwards.

AFC Ajax (4-3-3): Onana, Mazraoui, Schuurs (Traore 84), Martinez, Tagliafico, Klaassen (Ekkelenkamp 74), Blind (Huntelaar 83), Gravenberch, Neres (Labyad 74), Kudus (Promes 9), Tadic. Booked: Promes.
Liverpool (4-3-3): Adrian, Alexander-Arnold, Fabinho, Gomez, Robertson, Milner (R Williams 90), Wijnaldum, Jones (Henderson 46), Salah (Shaqiri 60), Firmino (Jota 60), Mane (Minamino 60). Booked: Milner, Alexander-Arnold.









LONG, FAST AND CLEVER

That's the throw-in mantra of the man who's helped massively improve Liverpool's effectiveness at the crucial touchline set-piece

Words: William Hughes



Thomas Gronnemark, former sprinter, ex-bobsleigh brakeman and world record-holder, is aiming to change football. He is now probably the most high-profile throw-in coach in the game and his services are sought by clubs all around the world.

The Dane is now into his third season working as a freelance with the Reds and his work has already seen a substantial pay-off in terms of the quality of the team's throws, both defensively and offensively.

He became the subject of plenty of interest following this season's Champions League draw as last season he was employed by three of the four teams together in Group D, advising AFC Ajax and FC Midtjylland as well as the Reds.

"My biggest dream is to change throw-ins in football so that they are much better," he says. "I started working as a throw-in coach in 2004 and my first professional club was Viborg but people really started noticing me in the summer of 2018.

"There was a young player from FC Midtjylland called Andreas Poulsen who was sold to Borussia Moenchengladbach for around four million Euros. He was 18 years old so that was pretty good and I'd been coaching him and many other Midtjylland players on their throw-ins. Andreas had improved his throw-in from 24 metres to 37.9 metres, so I was proud of that.

"I made a Tweet about it and interest took off from there."

A Moenchengladbach fanzine made contact hoping to write an article about his unusual speciality. That article was in turn read by a journalist from the leading German newspaper Bild who contacted Thomas to request another interview.

Among the readers of the Bild piece was Jürgen Klopp whose Liverpool team had enjoyed a successful 2017/18 season but had struggled when it came to re-starts from the touchline.

"When I spoke to Jürgen on the phone he explained that even though Liverpool had finished fourth in the Premier League and reached a Champions League final, the team's throw-ins were quite bad."

After attending a meeting at Melwood the following week, Thomas impressed the Liverpool manager with his 'long, fast and clever' throw-in philosophy to such an extent that he was out on the grass leading a coaching session the following day.

"Later when we looked at the tactical analysis for the 17/18 season, it showed that Liverpool were actually number 18 out of 20 in the Premier League for throw-ins under pressure, with a possession retained rate of 45.4 per cent.

"In my first season with the club, 18/19, we improved to 68.4



"IT'S AN INCREDIBLE THING TO BE WORKING WITH LIVERPOOL FC BUT THEN TO SEE THE TEAM WIN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AND THEN THE PREMIER LEAGUE AFTER 30 YEARS OF WAITING... IT'S ALMOST TOTALLY INSANE WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING"

per cent and went from number 18 in the Premier League to number one.

"It's been like an adventure and a fairytale for me because I don't think I could have written this story myself. It's an incredible thing to be working with Liverpool FC but then to see the team win the Champions League and then the Premier League after 30 years of waiting... it's almost totally insane what's been happening.

"I'm just so, so happy that Jürgen asked for help and called me directly. It's been fantastic for me to be a part of the club these three seasons."

His work has since been profiled in Forbes Magazine, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, and now Thomas aims to write a book on his coaching work. Although he's made some drills available on his YouTube channel, he understandably wants to keep a lid on most of his trade secrets.

"It's a strategy for me because right now I am living my dream and travelling all around the world, seeing fantastic places and meeting fantastic people," he explains.

"When I publish my book I don't know what will happen with the interest. Will it be approximately the same or will my other work with the clubs go down a little bit because I'm sharing my secrets? Or maybe the opposite – will even more clubs want me? So right now I'm thinking about what should I do.

"On my YouTube channel I have my four best basic throw-in drills that can be used for youth and amateur players and there are many coaches who have written to thank me for my drills. It's just fantastic to help them make that change.

"People have been asking about it from almost every continent. I haven't spoken with someone from Antarctica yet, but it's been Asia, Africa, Europe, South America and North America, and, if it wasn't for coronavirus I would have been travelling much more already and visited a lot of new countries."

Thomas has coached the likes of Trent Alexander-Arnold, Joe Gomez and Andy Robertson on their throw-ins and he always encourages players to improve their throwing ranges as well as their awareness around space-creation.

"Some people are still talking about throw-ins and throw-in coaching in terms of marginal gains. But if you look at the numbers, that's totally wrong because there are normally between 40 to 60 throw-ins in a match and most teams retain possession under 50 per cent of the circumstances when they have a throw-in under pressure.

"So I would call it gigantic gains because so many situations have such a big an affect on the matches. I'm not saying it's the most important thing in football but I am saying that it has a really big influence.

"Can you improve your throw-ins and your space creation?



Can you keep control, create chances and score goals from after throw-ins? If so, you can really improve your performance."

Soon after starting work with the Reds, the English national team were also a beneficiary. In November 2018 a Gomez long-throw helped the Three Lions come from behind to defeat Croatia 2-1 at Wembley and reach the Nations League semi-finals. His javelin-like delivery led to Jesse Lingard's equaliser with 12 minutes remaining, paving the way for Harry Kane's late winner.

Thomas, who himself set a new Guinness world record for a throw-in of 51.33 metres in 2010, explains: "We're not really using the long throw-in at Liverpool, at least not as a weapon towards



Thomas broke the world long-throw record 10 years ago













"I'D SAY 90 TO 95 PER CENT OF ALL MY COACHING AT LIVERPOOL FC IS ABOUT HOW CAN WE CREATE SPACE AT A THROW-IN ALL OVER THE PITCH – USING DIFFERENT TOOLS TO KEEP POSSESSION, CREATE CHANCES AND SCORE GOALS"

the opponents goal. But I've still been coaching all the players to throw longer because the longer the throw-in area you have, it means you can throw to more team-mates.

"So even though Joe assisted that famous goal against Croatia, you'll probably not be seeing Liverpool FC using the long throw-in. Some people might be asking why not when you have, for example, someone like Joe who really has a world-class long throw-in.

"But if you want to score a lot of goals from long throw-ins, you also have to take a lot of long throw-ins! For example at FC Midtjylland before last season they had scored 35 goals from long throw-ins over four seasons, so approximately nine per season.

"But to do that they also had to take ten long throw-ins in every match and do you want to see that at Anfield, where you have a stoppage of 30 to 45 seconds every time to prepare for that? I don't think anyone is interested in that because everyone loves the fast style of play that Liverpool has with a lot of energy.

"So yes, it can be good to have a long throw-in and it's really important for creating space to have that greater throwing area.

"I'd say 90 to 95 per cent of all my coaching at Liverpool FC is primarily about how can we create space at a throw-in all over the pitch. We have worked with lots of different throw-in tools





There would be many fewer pressure-situations and normally with a kick-in – like a short corner – your opponents have to be a certain distance away from the kicker, ten yards or so.

"Then you can also say that when you have a throw-in, you have the possibility to create space innovatively like we do at Liverpool, so the game's much more entertaining.

"It's a little bit like basketball where as a spectator you're really looking forward to see how they create space to make the free shot. It's the same with my throw-in coaching.

"You can also say that a lot of research-backed data has shown that when they have had trials with kick-ins, you have a lot of long balls instead and are people interested in that? I don't think so.

"I think the challenge right now in football is that a lot of coaches and players right around the world, including youth and amateur coaches are lacking knowledge about how to use throw-ins.

"A lot of coaches are telling the players to just throw the ball down the line. I really want to change that and if you think that kick-ins can solve that problem, then you're totally wrong."

Thomas says he would also be open to helping the technical committees of the game's governing bodies in his bid to help change the way players think about throw-ins.

"Can I help UEFA or FIFA to develop something to bring out that knowledge? I would really like to do that. When I was playing football myself, I didn't go pro but I reached the highest youth level in Denmark as an Under-19s player and I love the game.

"Rather than revolutionise football by bringing in kick-ins, I would say why not evolve the game and make it more exciting? I would like to help UEFA or FIFA to develop football.

to look at how we can create space to keep possession, create chances and score goals after throw-ins.

"Last season we scored 14 goals after throw-in situations all around the pitch. Eleven of them were from our own throw-ins and three were after the opponents had a throw-in."

The 44-year-old is passionate about wanting to continue in his mission of helping players improve their throw-ins and is a fierce critic of ex-Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger's recent suggestion advocating the replacement of throws with kick-ins.

"For me that would be the worst thing for football, not because of my job but because I believe it would make the game boring.

"Right now when I come into a professional club, 99 per cent of the players have never been coached on throw-ins, or if they have it's been to a really low level. And so they all have to start from scratch.

"When I watch matches I really see that most teams have throw-ins at a low level too. This work shouldn't start at pro level. It should begin when you're starting to play football. Of course, six-year-olds shouldn't be coached like I'm coaching Liverpool but you have to start with basic things just like you start with basic things when you begin using your feet.

"I want to help make that change and make football better."





A TEAM OF TARTAN

In a month which sees Scots celebrating St Andrew's Day, how's thistle (ahem) for an unbeatable eleven of Liverpool players past and present from north of the border

All being well, Andy Robertson will captain Scotland in a Euro 2020 play-off final against Serbia in Belgrade this month, with the winners joining England, Croatia and the Czech Republic in their Euro 2020 group stage next June.

It's a proud moment for Andy, who of course is just the latest in a long line of Liverpool Scots going right back to the club's foundations. In 1892 chairman John Houlding sent his trusted lieutenant John McKenna to Scotland to search for new stars, and LFC's first starting XI was duly called the 'Team of Macs'.

It may spark debate but here's our tartan team for all-time, selected in a 3-4-3 formation...



ANDREW ROBERTSON

Left wing-back 2017-present;
LFC apps/goals 132/5; Scotland caps 38

Robbo's boundless energy and quality of delivery would add something special to our team. His rise from being released by Celtic as a boy to champion of everything is an uplifting tale for every young footballer. "I love his story," said manager Jürgen Klopp.

Season 2013/14 was a hugely successful one for Andy north of the border, as he helped Dundee United reach the Scottish Cup final, won the PFA Scotland young player of the year award and earned a move to Premier League side Hull City.

He was appointed Scotland captain by Alex McLeish in September 2018 and now stands on the brink of leading his country to a major finals following their penalty shoot-out victory over Israel in the Euro 2020 play-off semi-final.

Words: William Hughes



TOMMY LAWRENCE

Goalkeeper 1957-71; LFC apps 390; Scotland caps 3

One of the Bill Shankly boys, the stockily-built keeper became an institution at Anfield but had to wait five years before getting a regular run in the team.

Tommy was capped only three times by Scotland in a period when it was widely felt that men who played their club football north of the border had a better chance of being selected.

A much-loved character who sadly passed away in January 2018, he gets our nod for the goalkeeping gloves ahead of Ken Campbell, who played for the Reds between 1912 and 1920, Tommy Younger who represented Liverpool in the late Fifties, and Ned Doig, a Second Division title-winner in 1904/05.

RON YEATS



Centre-back 1961-71; LFC apps/goals 454/16; Scotland caps 2

It seems remarkable to think that Bill Shankly's first great captain at Liverpool only won two international caps. 'Rowdy' led the Reds to league titles in 1964 and 1966 and also became the first man to lift the FA Cup for the club in 1965.

First capped by Ian McColl in October 1964 for a British Championship match against Wales at Ninian Park, he had to wait for more than a year before making his next – and final – appearance for his country against Italy in a World Cup qualifier in Naples.



ALEX RAISBECK

Centre-back 1898-1909; LFC apps/goals 341/19; Scotland caps 8

An inspirational figure in Liverpool's defence for over a decade in the very early part of the club's history, Raisbeck moved to Anfield in May 1898 for a fee of £350.

Despite being 'only' 5ft 10in in height he became a commanding centre-half and was captain when Liverpool won their first Division One title in 1901. He also lifted the trophy again five years later.

Thirty years after leaving Liverpool, he returned as a scout and continued in the role until his dying day in March 1949. He won eight caps between 1900 and 1907, captaining the Scotland team in his final five appearances.



ALAN HANSEN

Centre-back: 1977-90; LFC apps/goals 620/14; Scotland caps 26

'Jocky' impressed at Partick Thistle before Bob Paisley brought him south. An elegant and classy central defender, he went on to become a key part of the Liverpool team during their most successful era, winning three European Cups, seven league titles, an FA Cup (as part of a double) and three League Cups.

It is therefore a surprise that Hansen represented his country on only 26 occasions. Highlights of his Scotland career included a trip to the 1982 World Cup finals but after featuring in a 1-0 defeat by the Republic of Ireland in a Euro 1988 qualifier, he never figured again.

Imagine him in a back-three with Raisbeck and Big Ron Yeats. As solid and skilful as they come.

DONALD MACKINLAY

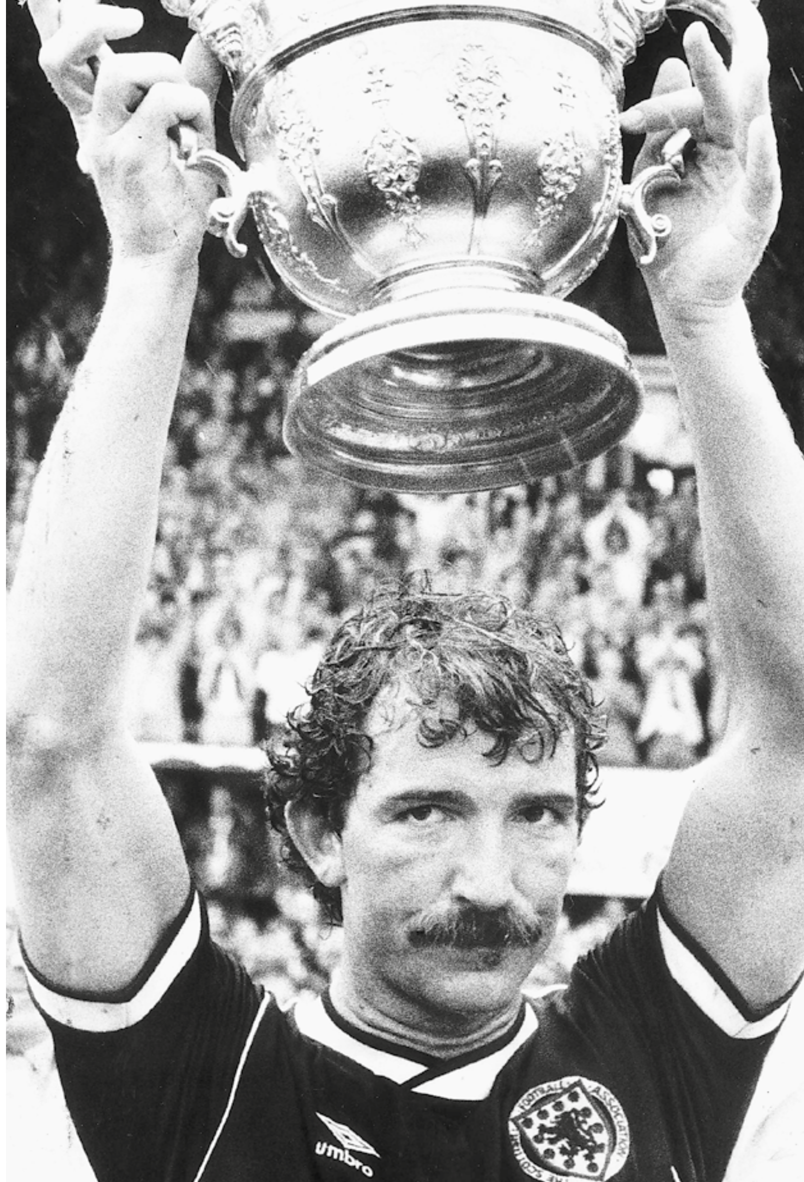
Right wing-back 1910-28; LFC apps/goals 434/34; Scotland caps 2



Mackinlay had one of the longest careers of any Liverpool player, despite four years of his professional life being lost to the First World War. Having been in the team that lost the 1914 FA Cup final, he captained Liverpool to successive League championships in 1922 and 1923.

Although he often played on the left, his versatility brought him over 30 league goals, so we will give him licence to attack from the right!

Donald played in two Home International matches for his country: a 2-1 defeat at Wales and a 2-1 win at home to Northern Ireland in 1922.



GRAEME SOUNESS

Central midfielder 1978-84; LFC apps/goals 359/55; Scotland caps 54 (4 goals)

The midfield general thrilled Liverpool supporters during a six-and-a-half year spell in the late 1970s and early 80s. As well as inspiring the team to five league titles and four League Cups, he also played his part in three European Cup triumphs, becoming one of the five captains to lift the famous trophy for the Reds. Later of course he returned to Anfield as manager, taking charge between 1991 and 1994.

'Souey' won the majority of his 54 Scotland caps while at Anfield and captained his country in half of his appearances. In an international career spanning 12 years, he played in three World Cups.

KENNY DALGLISH

Forward 1977-90; LFC apps/goals 515/172; Scotland caps 102 (30 goals)

Arguably the greatest player ever to wear the red shirt, King Kenny made as big an impact as any Liverpool player for Scotland. No-one has won more caps for the Scots while at Anfield (he also won many earlier with Celtic). His memorable goals in the dark blue shirt included a brilliant strike against Spain and nutmegging his future Anfield team-mate Ray Clemence in a home international.

In all, Kenny made 102 appearances for his country, making him the most capped Scotland player in history. With Denis Law he is also joint-holder of most goals scored with 30. Played in two World Cup finals and was captain seven times.



BILLY LIDDELL

Forward: 1939-60; LFC apps/goals 534/228; Scotland caps 29 (8 goals)

Another whom fans of a certain vintage regard as being among the best to pull on the famous red shirt. Billy marked his league debut for Liverpool in sensational style, scoring twice in a 7-4 defeat of Chelsea at Anfield. He made an immediate impact that season as the Reds went on to win the title for the fifth time.

Liddell's international debut followed a similar pattern. It came against Switzerland in May 1946 when he scored twice in three minutes in a 3-1 victory in front of a crowd of 113,000 at Hampden Park.



STEVE NICOL

Central midfielder 1981-94; LFC apps/goals 468/46; Scotland caps 27

Brilliantly versatile, he was utilised in a variety of positions throughout the 1980s and early 90s and this sees him fill a central midfield berth in our team. His importance to the Reds was recognised with a Football Writers' Association player of the year award in 1988/89, a season that had seen him play in six different positions!

Nicol won his international caps between 1984 and 1991, with highlights including a 2-0 win over Australia in a World Cup play-off in 1985 and the subsequent trip to Mexico for the 1986 finals in which he started all three of Scotland's fixtures.

IAN ST JOHN

Forward 1961-71; LFC apps/goals 425/118; Scotland caps 21 (9 goals)

Bought by Bill Shankly for a then record fee from Motherwell as the 1960/61 season drew to a close, Ian went on to become a key figure in Liverpool's success in the mid-Sixties. The Saint formed a lethal attacking partnership with Roger Hunt and is one of an elite band of men to pass a century of goals for the club.

Surprisingly he was capped just 21 times by his country with two-thirds of those appearances coming as a Liverpool player. He found the net nine times for Scotland, with two goals coming in a qualification play-off for the 1962 World Cup against Czechoslovakia, played at the Heysel Stadium in November 1961.



THE MANAGER

Only one man for the job. Bill Shankly helped revolutionise Liverpool FC, changing its philosophy and laying the foundations for it to become the globally-followed club it is today.

Bill, who made one war-time guest appearance for Liverpool, was also capped five times during his playing days in the pre-war era. He made his debut in a 1-0 win over England at Wembley in a 1938 British International Championship match watched by 93,267.

Scotland won four of the five games in which Shankly played. The only exception was his final appearance, also against England in April 1939. A crowd of 149,269 packed into Hampden Park as the visitors came from one-down at half-time to win 2-1.



THIS MEANS MORE

Liverpool FC's first-team squad famously 'took the knee' before training last season in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and like the rest of their fellow players their commitment to facing down racism hasn't wavered



Reds boss Jürgen Klopp takes the knee before Liverpool's Premier League game at Chelsea earlier this season. Back in the summer he said: "If football is a role-model for anything in life, then it's for this – for equality. That everybody is exactly the same wherever you come from, wherever you are from, absolutely the same."



Fabinho, team-mates, opposition and match officials observe a moment's silence as they take the knee at Stamford Bridge

This season Premier League footballers are carrying the slogan No Room For Racism on their sleeves and there is a similar full-page message in the LFC matchday programme

Trent Alexander-Arnold famously wore these boots in last season's Merseyside derby – Liverpool's first game back following the suspension of the league. He then donated them to the Nelson Mandela Legacy Trust and they have since been on display at the National Football Museum

Liverpool FC Women and their Charlton Athletic counterparts take a knee at the start of the FA Women's Championship match at Prenton Park on 27 September

Reds striker Sadio Mane holding vigil before the home win over Arsenal this season





Alisson's goalkeeping jersey



Curtis Jones before the Carabao Cup tie at LIncoln City



Gini and Joe ahead of September's Gunners game in the Premier League



Naby kneels in solidarity



Danish striker Amalie Thestrup before a pre-season friendly



Mo Salah before the first home game of 2020/21 against Leeds United

"Whatever we have to do, we have to do and we will do, 100 per cent, just to sort this situation for now and for the future," the boss has said. "Because the past we cannot change, but the future we can change and that's what we all should try."

A MURAL FOR ARTHUR



A striking new piece of wall-art commemorates the world's first black professional footballer, who also plays a part in LFC history

Words: Chris McLoughlin

It was July 2019, a month after Liverpool became champions of Europe for a sixth time, when a giant Trent Alexander-Arnold mural went up on the side of a house on the corner of Sybil Road, just off Anfield Road.

Arranged by *The Anfield Wrap*, painted by French graffiti artist Aske (who'd also created the Jürgen Klopp mural at the Baltic Triangle) and used to highlight the worthy cause that is Fans Supporting Foodbanks, it has become a popular spot for Liverpool supporters to get photographs and selfies.

"We hope it inspires the young people who see it, for whom Trent is an inspiration and a role model," said TAW host John Gibbons.

"As Trent himself said, he's just a normal lad from Liverpool whose dreams came true."

Alexander-Arnold, who was 20 at the time the mural went up, has visited the magnificent piece of street-art and since then images of Klopp, Jordan Henderson and Ray Clemence have been created on other walls close to Anfield.

Yet long before any of them were born, let alone played for Liverpool FC, a footballer who last month had his own mural unveiled on the side of a house in Darlington graced the Anfield turf in a truly historic game of football.

On 1 September 1892, the newly formed Liverpool Football Club played their first ever match at Anfield, previously home to Everton: a friendly against Rotherham Town.

LFC's founding father John Houlding kicked the match off and Liverpool, playing in blue-and-white halves, won 7-1. There is some



confusion as to whether John Miller or Malcolm McVean scored the club's first-ever goal at Anfield with Miller credited with it in the *Liverpool Mercury* and McVean earning the plaudits in the *Liverpool Daily Post*.

Either way, the man against whom it was scored was Rotherham Town goalkeeper Arthur Wharton – not only the world's first black professional footballer but also at the time, quite remarkably, the fastest man on the planet.

Just how did the Usain Bolt of the 1890s end up playing in goal at Anfield? It's a fascinating story.

Born in Jamestown, Ghana, in October 1865, he moved to England in 1883 to train as a missionary in Darlington. He began to play sports and, after it became clear he was multi-talented, quit college to become a professional athlete.

In July 1886, at Stamford Bridge, he ran 100 yards (before it was the 100m) in 10 seconds flat. It made him the first sprinter to achieve that time in authentic championship conditions, earning him a world record that stood for 30 years.

Arthur was already playing football for Darlington FC at the time but, somewhat curiously, the Quakers opted to ignore his pace and play him in goal. It was a position he excelled in, perhaps because he was somewhat eccentric. Reports suggest that he used to crouch by the side of the goal before rushing out to deal with attackers. Not even Bruce Grobbelaar did that!

After a spell with Preston North End and a period out of the game to concentrate on his running, Wharton signed terms for Rotherham

LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
Ground: ANFIELD ROAD.
Authorized Programme and Fixtures.
ONE PENNY.] THURSDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1892.

SMOKE "BOATS" 'BACCA.
Sole Proprietor: WATTS-his-Name, Dale St.

ROTHERHAM TOWN.

KICK-OFF AT 5-30 P.M. PROMPT.

LIVERPOOL.

27. Whitechapel
32, Lord Street, LIVERPOOL

ALEXANDRA HOTEL, Dale Street.

JNO. A. TURNER & Co.

N. L. VAN GRUISEN & SON,
Cheapest Best House in Liverpool.
over 2,000 INSTRUMENTS In Stock
27 & 29, BOLD STREET, LIVERPOOL.

CAIN is At
29, Kirkdale
HOBBS & HATTERS
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Town in 1889 to become a footballing pioneer.

Three years later, he played in Liverpool's first game at Anfield. While it wasn't a league match – Liverpool's first Lancashire League game followed 48 hours later – it was an historic occasion for what would become English football's most successful club. Liverpool scored seven, although it would have been more but for Wharton's saves.

Sixteen months later, promotion-chasing Liverpool travelled to Rotherham Town's snow-covered Clifton Lane for a Second Division match. They won 4-1 – Jimmy Stott netting twice – although Wharton appears to have been the home side's best player.

"With the exception of Wharton, their play became very loose, whilst Liverpool kept going very strongly," reported the *Liverpool Mercury*.

A week later the sides met again in front of over 4,000 fans at Anfield. William Barclay's league leaders were too strong for the struggling visitors, running out 5-1 winners with Harry Bradshaw and David Henderson both scoring twice, and this time it was clear that Wharton kept the score down. This extract is from the *Liverpool Mercury* with the scoreline at 1-0...

"Still maintaining full possession of the game the Anfield team made strenuous endeavours to again pierce Wharton's defence, but that wily and self-possessed individual was in magnificent form, and although fairly peppered with shots by Henderson, Bradshaw, and McQue, he still remained the victor."

That was the last time Arthur played against Liverpool. He went on to sign for Sheffield United later in the year, becoming the first black footballer to play in English football's top-flight, and saw out his career with Stalybridge Rovers, Ashton North End and Stockport County before retiring in 1902 at the age of 36.

He later went on to become a cycling champion, cricketer and rugby player but was penniless when he passed away in December 1930. Despite his groundbreaking career, Wharton was buried in an unmarked grave in Edlington Cemetery in South Yorkshire.

In 1997, after a campaign by the organisation Football Unites Racism Divides, his grave was given a headstone and in 2010 The Arthur Wharton Foundation was set up in Darlington by campaigner Shaun Campbell, who had first read about him in 2007 during Black History Month.

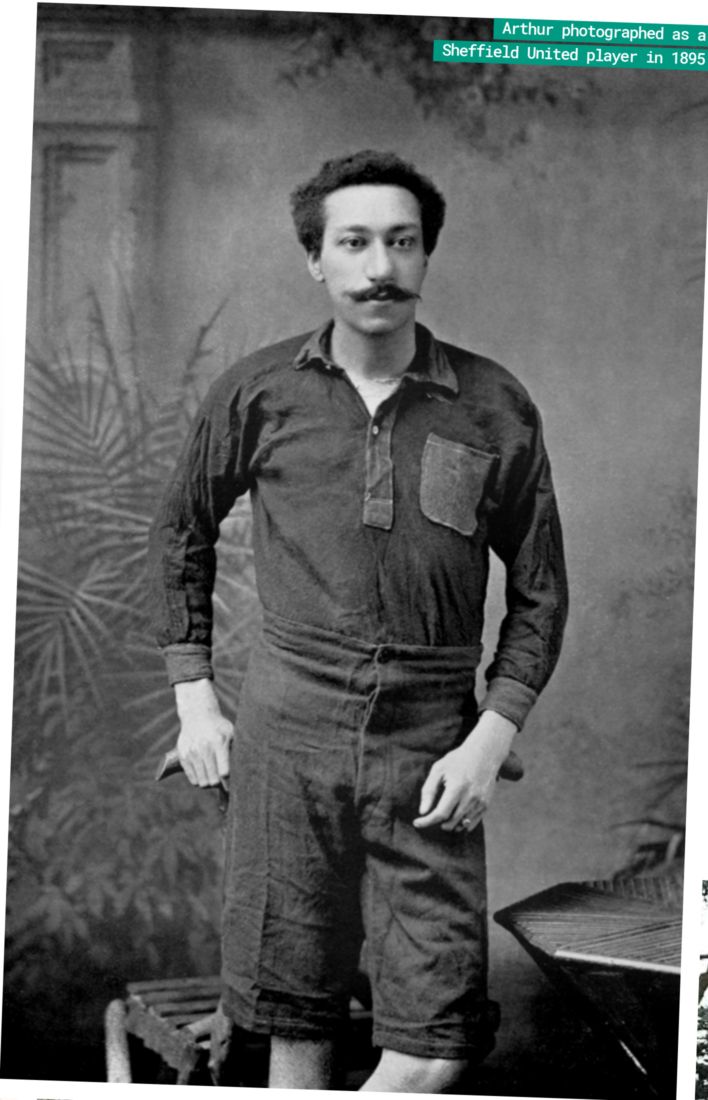
"I just wanted to celebrate this remarkable young man and remember what he did," he said.

Patrons of the foundation now include ex-footballers George Boateng, Viv Anderson and Trainspotting author Irvine Welsh. In October 2014 – thanks to the efforts of Shaun Campbell to ensure Wharton has a legacy to help inspire and educate future generations – the FA recognised Arthur's significant contribution to football by unveiling a 16ft statue of him at St George's Park in Burton.

Fast-forward to 2020 and to mark the 155th anniversary of his birth, a mural of the first visiting goalkeeper to play at Anfield has been created on the side of a house in Widdowfield Street, Darlington, where the Arthur Wharton Foundation is based.

Various footballing legends, including Sir Kenny Dalglish and ex-Reds striker Emile Heskey, have recorded videos of themselves saying "Arthur Wharton is number one" to highlight his story, but it is the eye-catching street-art that is the most striking reminder of this footballing legend.

Commissioned by BT Sport, who also dedicated a programme to Wharton's story as part of their Black History Month coverage, and created by Spanish graffiti artist Jay Kaes, it features Arthur's image and the name 'Kwame' which is given to Ghanaian boys born on a Saturday.


Arthur photographed as a Sheffield United player in 1895


The mural in progress

And, while Darlington is a northeastern town in which the Redmen have never played a football match, it is now home to an unique, visual link to Liverpool Football Club's first game at Anfield.

Arthur Wharton wasn't a Red. But as a pioneer for black footballers, he helped to pave the way for many who are – lads like Trent Alexander-Arnold who now have their achievements recognised while they are playing.

• Visit arthurwhartonfoundation.org for more on the Arthur Wharton Foundation who are 'connecting the present, to the past for the future'. Thanks also to ex-LFC scout Alex Smailes for help with this article.

The statue in St George's Park

REMEMBER REMEMBER THE REDS IN NOVEMBER?

Fifty LFC questions about the eleventh month of the year… which should keep you guessing till December kicks in

1 Which tousle-haired former forward scored one of his two hat-tricks for Liverpool in a 6-2 win over Norwich City back in November 1986?

2 The Reds signed American goalkeeper Brad Friedel in November 2000 from which Ohio-based club?



3 Can you name the midfielder who played 241 times under Bill Shankly after signing from Rangers in November 1962?

4 Two players scored their first goals for the Reds in a 6-0 UEFA Cup second-round second-leg defeat of Real Sociedad in November 1975 – who were the duo?



5 Who was the Swansea goalkeeper – initials 'MV' – whose heroics helped his side earn a goalless draw in a Premier League game at Anfield in November 2011?

6 Which centre-forward made a controversial switch across Stanley Park to join the Reds in November 1959?



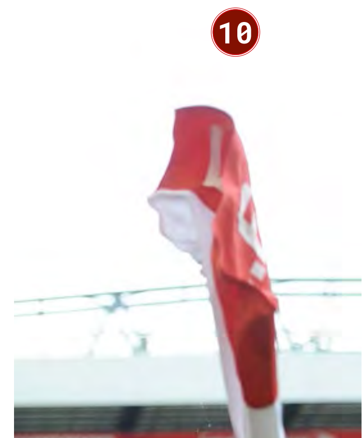
7 In November 1967 the Reds thrashed which German team 8-0 in a European Fairs Cup match?

8 And which Yorkshire team defeated the Reds 8-0 way back in November 1934?

9 Markus Babbel scored his first Liverpool goal in an 8-0 League Cup fourth-round win over which team in November 2000?

10 Emre Can scored his first goal for the Reds in November 2014 at home to which Premier League rival?

11 Which Scotland midfielder scored his first Liverpool goal against Coventry City in November 2000 after signing from the Sky Blues on a free transfer?



13

12 Liverpool's first league derby against Everton took place in November of which year?

13 Terry McDermott joined the Reds from Newcastle United in November 1974 – what was the fee?

14 Liverpool signed Keith Burkinshaw in November 1953 but which club did he later manage to UEFA Cup and FA Cup glories?

15 Which LFC legend, who went on to serve the club in several capacities, made his debut at Derby County in November 1952?

16 Ron Yeats' first goal for Liverpool helped the team win 1-0 on the ground of which North West rival in November 1963?

17 Which ex-Reds captain scored Wolves' fourth goal as they won 4-1 against Liverpool in November 1980?

18 Steven Gerrard made his Liverpool debut as a sub against Blackburn Rovers in November 1998 – but which Norwegian did he replace?



19 Martin Kelly's only Liverpool goal came in a League Cup tie on which London ground in November 2011?

20 In November 1898 the Reds gave a debut to a right-back called General Stevenson whose brother was named (a) Lieutenant (b) Commander or (c) Admiral?

21 Former Reds midfielder Jimmy Melia, born in November 1937, managed which team to the 1983 FA Cup final?

22 During Liverpool's win at Aston Villa in November 2019 why was a Roberto Firmino goal disallowed?



23 Defender Brian Kettle made his senior debut in November 1975 but how many times did he win the old Central League with the Reds reserves: (a) three (b) five or (c) seven?

24 Which Liverpool and England right-back, born on 5 November 1971, made his league debut for the Reds at Old Trafford 20 years later?

25 In November 1991 the Reds overcame a 2-0 first-leg deficit to beat Auxerre 3-2 on aggregate in a UEFA Cup second-round tie - who scored Liverpool's decisive third goal at Anfield?

26

26 What was significant about Divock Origi's first goals for the Reds, scored against Southampton in November 2015?

27 In November 2018 when the Reds drew 1-1 at Arsenal, who was the Liverpool goalscorer?

28 Also in November 2018 in which city did the Reds go down 2-0 in a Champions League group game?

29 Who netted his first goal for the Reds in a 6-1 Premier League victory over Watford in November 2016?

30 In last November's 3-1 win over Manchester City at Anfield who scored what was later voted the club's goal of the month?

31 Against which team did Xherdan Shaqiri score in the Remembrance Day fixture of November 2018?





32 Roberto Firmino scored his first LFC goal in a 4-1 away win over which side in November 2015?

33 And in November 2017 Bobby scored twice and provided an assist as Liverpool drew 3-3 in the Champions League group-stage against whom?

34 Which teenager, currently out on loan, made his Premier League bow as a sub in a 2-0 home win over Sunderland in November 2016?

35 The same player became Liverpool's youngest-ever goalscorer when he netted in a League Cup win against which team three days later?

36 A James Milner penalty gave Jürgen Klopp his first home league win as Liverpool manager in November 2015 – who were the opponents?

37 Who headed in both goals in last November's 2-1 home win over Brighton?



38 And who provided both assists in the same game?

39 Alisson Becker was sent off for handball in that game, becoming the first Red to be dismissed since whom?



40 As of the end of 2019 how many goals had Mo Salah and Sadio Mane scored between them for Liverpool in the month of November: (a) 14 (b) 15 or (c) 16?



41 Georginio Wijnaldum, who turns 30 on 11 November, joined the Reds from which club in 2016?



42 Xabi Alonso, who celebrates his 39th birthday on 25 November, made no less than 20 of his 210 LFC appearances against which club?

43 Teenage centre-back Billy Koumetio will be 18 in November, but from which French club did he move to the Reds in 2018?

44 Brendan Rodgers, who returns to Anfield with Leicester City this month, has which ex-Reds defender as his first-team coach?

45 And can you name the former Liverpool player who is part of Brendan's first-team squad?

46 The Reds play two fixtures against Atalanta during November – in which Italian city are their opponents based?

47 The game against Brighton will see a reunion with Adam Lallana, who scored his final Liverpool goal against...?

48 Which international team-mate of Divock Origi's netted for the Seagulls against the Reds at the Amex Stadium in July?

49 Who is the Liverpool Under-18s coach who played 140 games for Port Vale between 2000 and 2004.?





50 Liverpool FC Women host Sheffield United Women on 8 November, but which two players joined the Blades after leaving the Reds this summer?





ANSWERS

1 Paul Walsh; 2 Columbus Crew; 3. Willie Stevenson; 4. David Fairclough and Phil Neal; 5. Michel Vorm; 6. Dave Hickson; 7. TSV Munich; 8. Huddersfield Town; 9. Stoke City; 10. Chelsea; 11. Gary McAllister; 12. 1894; 13. £175,000; 14. Tottenham Hotspur; 15. Ronnie Moran; 16. Manchester United; 17. Emlyn Hughes; 18. Vegard Heggem; 19. Stamford Bridge; 20. (c) Admiral; 21. Brighton and Hove Albion; 22. His armpit was deemed offside; 23. (c) seven; 24. Rob Jones; 25. Mark Walters; 26. They comprised a hat-trick in a 6-1 League Cup win at St Mary's; 27. James Milner. 28. Belgrade; 29. Georginio Wijnaldum; 30. Fabinho; 31. Fulham; 32. Manchester City; 33. Sevilla; 34. Ben Woodburn; 35. Leeds United; 36. Swansea City; 37. Virgil van Dijk; 38. Trent Alexander-Arnold; 39. James Milner against Crystal Palace in January 2019; 40. (c) 16; 41. Newcastle United; 42. Chelsea; 43. Orleans; 44. Kolo Toure; 45. Danny Ward; 46. Bergamo; 47. Manchester United (away); 48. Leandro Trossard; 49. Marc Bridge-Wilkinson; 50. Frances Kitching and Courtney Sweetman-Kirk.

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

0-20 Bonfire Night's not much Kop at your place is it?
21-40 Impressive – bet you've got your own LFC sparklers
41-50 Light the fuse and stand well back, Rocket Man/Woman

THE STUFF OF LEGENDS

You've seen our Liverpool Scottish XI a little earlier, now prepare for a new documentary about three of football's finest managers, directed by Jonny Owen







Jonny, you've been involved in television for 25 years, but how did you become a football filmmaker?

Back in the 1990s I was in a band [The Pocket Devils] and a drama series called *Nuts and Bolts* started in Wales. One of the lads in the band was in it, and the casting director asked me to come down and have a go. I was bit like, "Nah, it's not for me," but he persuaded me to go down and I got the part.

From there I got into acting and I was on set when the head of ITV Wales – HTV as it was then – said to me, "You love your football, don't you? Have a chat with the head of ITV Sport, there's a job going there." So I ended up working in ITV Sport and I used to be the voice of the football scores in Wales… "Cardiff City two, Swansea City nil," and all that!

I did that for a long time and carried on with my acting to earn a coin, getting a lot experience in both football and TV. I ended up writing a script for a comedy called *Svengali*, which did well.



Then you combined your love of football with writing…

In 2015 I directed *I Believe In Miracles* – a film about Nottingham Forest winning their two European Cups in 1979 and 1980. That was a big hit, both at the cinema and on DVD, and once you've had a hit you get offered more opportunities.

So I ended up doing *Don't Take Me Home* – a labour of love about Wales at the 2016 Euros – and then the guys who made *Senna* got in touch with me and asked if I would work with them. I'm a big fan of their work so I said absolutely. Then they asked if I had any ideas.

My dad passed away in 2017, bless him, and he'd worked underground and at the steelworks. He was an old Welsh working-class man who had worked in the major industries and he loved Bill Shankly. Whenever Shanks was on the TV he'd say, "He's one of us, he used to work underground."

When he passed after getting ill with cancer, I thought to myself that the generation of men who worked in mining and the docks are passing away into history now. In Liverpool at one time, tens of thousands of men would work on the docks and go to the football on a Saturday, so I thought to myself that I'd like to do a film about these three Scottish kings from working-class backgrounds: Bill Shankly, Matt Busby and Jock Stein.

What did you discover about these three great men while making The Three Kings?

That they were rivals but lifelong friends. So I wanted to produce something that an 80-year-old could enjoy watching, but made in a very modern way with music and voices for the younger generation too. That's the point of the film – to introduce Shankly, Busby and Stein to those people.

Shankly's granddaughter gave me a great line. She said: "His legend seems to grow every year," and she's right. Shankly is seen as the father of the club, the soul of Liverpool. And it is a very similar thing with Busby at Man United and Stein at Celtic.

I was passionate about the fact that they were close friends to the point that Busby even recommended Shankly for the Liverpool job in 1959, which is remarkable considering what happened next. It's a great story.

After making the recommendation to Liverpool he put the phone down and turned to his assistant Jimmy Murphy and said "I might regret that." At that time Liverpool were a Second Division team, but within four or five years Shankly had turned them into First Division champions and took them into Europe.

How would you describe Bill's impact at Liverpool?

Shankly didn't just reinvigorate the football club, he reinvigorated the city. If you think of Liverpool now, Liverpool Football Club and the



Beatles are the two things it is most famous for. The economic affect of Liverpool Football Club on the city is massive and the club's success has become part of the fabric of the city.

All that is down to Bill Shankly. He made Liverpool into the giant that it is today so it was interesting to interweave his story with that of the jobs Busby and Stein did in Manchester and Glasgow.

I know that Shankly's story has been done many times, but this is slightly different in the sense that I've interwoven his life with Busby and Stein. The story of how Shankly and Busby became great friends and rivals – and how that led to the great rivalry between Liverpool and Manchester United, the most famous English rivalry in sport – is fascinating.

You had these two Scottish miners who were swapping titles and FA Cups in the 1960s like heavyweight boxers trading punches. Those glorious years set both clubs on their way and with Stein doing the same at Celtic, that is what *The Three Kings* is about.

Shankly, Busby and Stein: all Scottish, all born within 30 miles of each other, all worked down the mines, all became hugely successful football managers. Co-incidence or down to their upbringing?

I don't think anything in life is a complete coincidence. I'm a great believer that if you scratch under the surface there are always reasons.

These three men all worked underground in a similar part of the world. If you were a Scottish miner in the early 20th century you had to all look after each other because the work was extremely dangerous, so you had to get on down there.

They were all unionised too and when you were unionised and arguing with coal-mine owners then you had to have good arguments and be able to communicate them. Suddenly you were getting the components you need to be a great manager. You need people to believe in you, to argue your points, to hold your own ground and look after your team – all the qualities football managers need.

They all had the ability to take people with them and the commentator Archie Macpherson gave me a great line. He said: "I've met great philosophers of football, but I only met a handful of men that players would stand up for when they walked into a room – Shankly, Stein and Busby."

They had an aura that gave them respect.

How difficult was it to source the footage of all three managers to put the film together?

It was okay because even back then they were so famous that there was quite a lot of footage. Shankly especially was so telegenic – the cameras were always on him.

The nature of Liverpool fans being what it is, they will know all his quotes – like "I would put him in jail, out of the road of society, because he's a menace," about if a player isn't trying hard – and have seen the famous clips.

If you're working in television, like I have been for 25 years, then if Shankly was still around I'd be sending a camera to record him every time he spoke because you know he would always be funny and engaging. So there's probably more from him in the film than the others because Busby and Stein were quieter, whereas Shankly was a performer.

For me, Shankly was a TV star just for the way he dressed like James Cagney – sharp as a tack and a bit of an extrovert. He looked a million dollars and he spoke brilliantly, so if you've got that kind of personality and character then you're made for TV.

Ian St John told you a story about Shanks and the journalist Horace Yates, who worked on the Liverpool Echo...

Horace was used to bumbling along for a provincial newspaper covering a Second Division team and then all of a sudden Shankly arrives. Can you imagine the difference?

St John said he remembers Horace sitting at the front of the team-bus and flying all over Europe with the look of someone thinking: I can't believe this man has come into my life. That's how dramatic it was. Shankly would be like, "Horace son, get your pen out, I want to talk about the economic situation in Europe" and all kinds of things.

Shankly would also have been a great chat-show host because he was so sharp and spoke really clearly and precisely. He also had a wide vocabulary and even interviewed the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, on Radio City. Imagine that now – a football manager sitting down to interview leading politicians.

So I would say Shankly came across as a man really comfortable in his own skin and while he did a lot of brilliant punditry for Radio City, he should have been given a TV chat show because he was such a natural communicator and a natural performer.



Interview: Chris McLoughlin

Sir Matt Busby was a former Liverpool captain who went on to manage Manchester United. Could you imagine Steven Gerrard or Jordan Henderson doing that now?

No, because the days of players or managers working for both clubs largely ended in the 1960s when Shankly and Busby made the two clubs such leviathans in European and world football.

The last player transferred directly between the two clubs was Phil Chisnall in 1964. Gabriel Heinze tried to move to Liverpool in 2007, but Alex Ferguson was like, "Are you mental?" and blocked it.

Paul Ince moved to Liverpool via Inter Milan and Michael Owen went the other way via Real Madrid and Newcastle, but there's been nothing directly between the two clubs for over 50 years and it reminds me of a great line from either [Reds fans] Peter Hooton or Kevin Sampson.

I think it was in a piece in FourFourTwo when United were in their pomp, about their biggest rivals. Leeds were mentioned, as were Man City, but one of the lads said, "Only we deserve to hate Manchester United." I thought it was a great way of looking at it.

Football is cyclical. United were leading the way then, but now Liverpool are ahead again and nobody would have imagined that in 1999. In 2008, after winning the Champions League against Chelsea in Moscow, it looked like United would have an era of winning European Cups backed by their commercial success. But since then Liverpool have won it and they haven't, which also hows how important a manager is.

Since Alex Ferguson left United they've not won as many trophies, whereas since Jürgen Klopp came to Liverpool the club has been successful. The importance of a manager is essentially what *The Three Kings* shows through the importance of Shankly, Busby and Stein to Liverpool, Man United and Celtic.

When a club is successful people think it is going to last forever, but look at Nottingham Forest since Brian Clough left. Only when great managers go do people realise what a great job they did, although Liverpool was different because Bob Paisley took over and carried on what Shankly had started.

You mentioned Jürgen Klopp – do certain personalities suit certain football clubs when it comes to managing them?

I couldn't agree more. When Klopp was appointed by Liverpool I said to someone, "He is the perfect signing for that football club." It was a bit like when Ferguson went to United so many years after Busby left and turned the club around again.

Under Jose Mourinho, United fans were never going to be happy in the same way Liverpool fans weren't happy with Roy Hodgson. It was no reflection on their ability as managers, but in both cases it just didn't feel right.

A club has to have a manager that suits its DNA. The DNA at Liverpool began with Shankly's personality and continued from there.

When I was making the film about Nottingham Forest I got talking to a lot of their old players and when I mentioned Anfield they'd say things like, "We'd go there and never have the ball." I don't think that has ever really changed. In my lifetime I cannot recall anyone going to Anfield, dominating possession and battering Liverpool.

It's almost like you walk into Liverpool's house, look at the Kop and already you're on the back-foot. Bill Shankly created that. He had an aura that made it almost an affront to him to go to Anfield and try to play, let alone try to beat Liverpool.

Anfield has a 'if you're coming here you're in for a tough afternoon' feeling and that is rooted in Shankly's personality. He would tell his players, "Look at the Kop and give absolutely everything you have for them today."

Liverpool would always try to win by as many goals as possible under Shankly, too. They never let up, and it feels the same under Klopp now.

• The Three Kings began showing at cinemas from 2 November – tickets from threekingsfilm.co.uk – and will be available on DVD from 16 November.









GOODBYE MELWOOD
HELLO KIRKBY



Jürgen Klopp's first-team squad are preparing to move into the club's new Training Centre at the end of November, with the finishing touches being made in preparation.

The Reds will move to the 9,200sqm Kirkby complex after bidding a fond farewell to Melwood, which has been their historic training ground for 70 years. It marks a new chapter in LFC history and will see the first-team and youth-football operations come together at a combined facility for the first time.

It boasts three full-size pitches, goalkeeping and warm-up areas, and indoor facilities including two gyms, a full-size sports hall, pool, hydrotherapy complex and specialist sports rehabilitation suites.

To mark the occasion Liverpool FC and AXA have expanded their partnership to include the naming rights of the site, which will be officially known as the 'AXA Training Centre'.

The renewed agreement will see AXA expand its original training-kit relationship to one focused more 'holistically' on training as a whole and become the club's Official Training Partner, incorporating all LFC training apparel.

Billy Hogan, chief executive officer of Liverpool Football Club, says the expansion of the partnership "makes perfect sense. We have already seen AXA's emphasis on driving health, wellbeing, confidence, and self-belief and so deepening their relationship in the field of training makes this partnership a great fit.

"We're pleased to have AXA on board as we start this new chapter at the football club and are proud to expand our relationship with a brand that shares our common values and aspirations both on and off the pitch."

AXA chief executive officer Thomas Buberl adds: "We are extremely excited and proud by this landmark step in our partnership with Liverpool Football Club.

"The AXA Training Centre is a world-class facility that will forge a pathway of improvement, progress and success throughout the club's first team and development squads.

"This culture and belief truly complement our values of helping people to go further through our tagline: 'Know You Can'."

A planning application for the addition of sponsor signage to the building has been submitted to Knowsley Council and, subject to receipt of consent, will be installed later this year.


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AXA TRAINING CENTRE
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NUMBER 9 DREAM

Centre-forward **Amalie Thestrup** on playing her football in this country and helping Liverpool FC Women back to the top flight



Liverpool's number nine is hoping to help the team build on a strong start to the season as they continue their pursuit of promotion back to the FA Women's Super League.

Denmark international Amalie Thestrup had long dreamt of testing herself in English football and has already made valuable contributions as the team started November in a top-three position in the FA Women's Championship standings.

The centre-forward joined the Reds from AS Roma in July and is appreciative of how all her team-mates have helped her make the transition quickly. "I think I've settled in really well," she says.

"I've been extremely excited about my time here since day one. It's always been a dream of mine to come to the UK to play as it's a really exciting development going on with women's football. When Liverpool became a possibility for me, there was no doubt in my mind this was where I wanted to go to take the next step in my career.

"Everyone has been great at welcoming me to the team. We've had a good start and now I'm really happy and excited for the rest of the season."

Interview: William Hughes



Having previously played in her homeland with Brondby, Vejle and Ballerup-Skovlunde Fodbold before moving to Rome, Amalie believes that the extra physicality she has already encountered in this country will help her mould her all-round game into becoming a more complete centre-forward.

"I think there are definitely differences between all three countries but similarities as well. In Rome and in Italy in general the focus is very much on keeping the ball on the ground and keeping possession with small quick passes. I feel like here in England, and particularly playing for Liverpool, we really want to play as well and be this possession-based team, but there is also a more physical approach to the game and that whole attacking and aggressive mentality compared to Italy.

"There's a bit of a difference between those two countries and then Denmark is probably somewhere in between. It's been very exciting for me playing in both countries abroad and I think as a footballer you learn so much from trying out different footballing countries and philosophies and hopefully that makes you a better player.

"I would definitely say that I'm best in the middle. I think that I have the ability to play both ways in the sense of being able to combine through the pitch to set up our wingers but also be the attacker that can get the chances that arrive in the box and put the ball in the net as well."

Amalie has already made important contributions, providing an assist for a Kirsty Linnett goal in a 4-0 defeat of Charlton Athletic before opening her Liverpool account in a 2-1 win at Coventry United and adding a second in the 2-2 draw at Lewes on the opening day of November.

"As an attacking player you always want to help the team with creating chances and scoring goals and that's definitely something that I strive to do every single time I'm on the pitch," she continues. "I felt my first goal for Liverpool was a long time coming but I was happy to score it and hopefully it's the first of many."

The striker believes her adaptation to the team has been helped by manager Vicky Jepson and her staff who have been quick to help her integrate into the team.

"I've enjoyed working with both Vicky and Emma [assistant-manager Humphries] and the whole staff around the team. They've been great at welcoming me to the team but also with getting me up-to-date on how we want to play and what my role is within our style of play.

"It's been great so far. All the staff around the team are extremely professional and very good at what they do so it's been a pleasure."

Amalie believes the team have made a solid start in their bid for promotion with a narrow 2-1 defeat at Leicester City their only reverse going into their November schedule.

"Obviously we were gutted not to get anything out of the Leicester game but overall it's been a fairly good start and our focus now is on every single game that we've got coming up because we know that every game is as important as the last one and as the next one. We're happy with our start but we keep wanting to improve to the next game and proceed from that.

"The Leicester and Coventry United games were on 3G pitches and I

WE HAVE BIG AMBITIONS AND I HOPE THAT I CAN BE A PART OF ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS

I'VE HEARD SO MANY GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE LIVERPOOL FANS FROM ALL THE GIRLS - WE NEED TO DO OUR BEST TO MAKE THEM PROUD

understand that almost half of the teams in this league play on artificial surfaces. It's a different game on 3G and I think that we would all prefer playing on grass. Unfortunately we can't control what grounds our opposing teams play on so we just do our best to try and exploit what opportunities are possible when playing on 3G.

"Hopefully in the future we'll see more teams compete on grass to give us the best opportunities to present the women's game in the best way possible."

Of course the biggest disappointment of Amalie's Liverpool career to date is that she hasn't been able to meet her new supporters. She admits that playing games behind-closed-doors remains a strange experience and can't wait for the day when she finally gets to say hello to the Reds' loyal fans.

"I've heard so many good things about the Liverpool fans from all the girls and obviously it's a special situation not having them there. We know that we still need to do our best to make them proud and we can really feel that they're supporting us from home and hopefully soon we can start letting the supporters back into the stadiums.

"They've been so great at supporting us from afar even though it's not the personal face-to-face experience that we're used to as footballers."

One of the biggest challenges the Reds face this season is that only the top team in the Championship will be promoted, leaving little room for error. However, Amalie says that is a pressure the team is enjoying.

"I think we're definitely embracing that. We know that we have to be the top team in order to be promoted and that's the goal and that's the standard we set for ourselves as Liverpool Football Club. The biggest pressure is the one that we put ourselves in regards to what we hope for and what we represent."

The Reds showed exactly what they are capable of when they came from behind to defeat FA WSL pacesetters Manchester United 3-1 in a Continental Cup clash last month. Amalie believes that performance set the standard the team are now looking to meet every week.

"That was a great game and I think we really showcased what we're capable of when we're at our best," she explains. "We're excited to play against some of the top teams in the Continental Cup and it's always great when we can be tested against the best teams here in the country. I think we rose to the occasion against Manchester United and set that standard that what we want to achieve no matter what team we play.

"That's the standard that we want to set for ourselves every single time that we step onto the pitch and we're glad that we were able to show everyone around the game that's what we're capable of as well.

"Liverpool is a club with big ambitions. Our first aim is obviously to get back up into the Super League but I think the overall ambition from the club is always to keep moving forward and keep improving. That is the same mindset that we try to have as we approach every day and every time that we step on the pitch.

"We have big ambitions and I hope that I can be a part of achieving those goals in years to come."

FIRST THERE WAS FRAUSING

Amalie is the second Dane to play for the Reds during the FA WSL era. Centre-back Nina Frausing Pedersen was a member of the team that retained the Women's Super League title in 2014, lining up alongside then captain Gemma Bonner in the heart of the Reds defence. The Danish international, who joined the Reds after completing her studies in international business and entrepreneurship at the University of California, went on to play in Germany, Sweden and Australia before returning to Denmark with Brondby IF.



TOGETHER...



WE ARE LIVERPOOL. THIS MEANS MORE.

...STRONGER

Liverpool FC Supporters Clubs worldwide hve been joining forces to make a difference in their communities







Official Liverpool Supporters Clubs (OLSCs) from around the world came together recently to take part in the first 'This Means More Challenge Weekend' from 4-6 September.

The LFC Foundation initiative encouraged branches from around the globe to unite and take part in activities and challenges to support their local communities and help address the impact of the global pandemic.

From Baltimore to Bangalore, and Kenya to Kuala Lumpur, 34 branches from across five continents delivered a wide range of fantastic community action activities, including food drives, making

















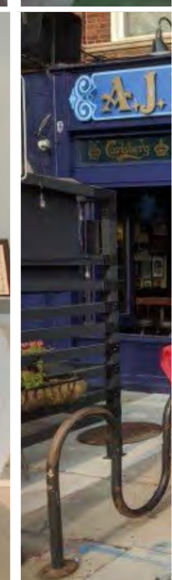












and distributing face-masks, fundraising challenges for local charities, providing school supply packs and cleaning community venues and spaces.

To ensure the competition was accessible, global OLSCs branches also had the opportunity to take part in a list of at-home activities if they were unable to go out into their communities due to local restrictions.

Fans took to social media across the weekend, tagging their progress using #ThisMeansMoreChallenge and sharing their amazing work with fans across the world.

Branches were also invited to join the This Means More Challenge Weekend Virtual Awards Ceremony on 28 October when club owner and LFC Foundation trustee, Linda Henry announced the winners. Over four categories they were: Myanmar, Madrid, Las Vegas, and Kenya.

Linda commented: "We have been continuously impressed with the



phenomenal connections and work being done across the world in local communities through the Official Liverpool Supporters Clubs.

"When we created the 'This Means More Challenge Weekend' to try to capture and promote what was happening, I had high expectations on what the supporter's clubs would do, but I was truly blown away by the way the OSLCs came together and made an impact in their communities.

"The passion, creativity, and kindness came through, showing that being part of LFC really does mean more."

"At a time of unprecedented challenges with a pandemic, it is so inspiring that the Liverpool family has come together, on a global scale, to help do their part to make things better. I'm both humbled and deeply appreciative of the magnificent efforts of our OLSCs, and am excited to build on this year's success by making things bigger and better next







Myanmar





Pune



New South Wales



Qatar



Richmond



Raleigh



Singapore

year, and in the years to come.

"Thank you to the Liverpool family."

Matt Parish, LFC Foundation director, added: "Everybody at the Foundation and across the club have been blown away by the passion and kindness of our branches. We really are the world's greatest football family and your ambition and commitment to help others is simply phenomenal.

"The pandemic has impacted the world in so many ways, and to be able to come together is such a powerful way is remarkable. Thank you."

It's hoped that the This Means More Challenge weekend will now be an annual event and opportunity to showcase the amazing work being done in communities across the world by the LFC Family, even in what this year has been the most challenging of circumstances.

TAKE A BOW...

Overall Winner: Myanmar
Runners Up: Bangalore and Kenya
Judges' comments: *It's difficult to know where to start! Myanmar were very active across the weekend with a variety of community activities including:*

- **Giving out free face-masks to the community**
- **Proving care packages for students, refugees and care workers**
- **Litter picking at a local hospital**
- **Planting trees in memory of the 96**
- **A local food drive**
- **Giving blood**

And still finding the time to entertain everybody with their stay-at-home concert!





LFC FAMILY AWARD – THE MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITY

Winner: Madrid
Runners Up: Atlanta and Kenya
Judges' comments: *We loved the family-friendly 288km trek completed by 14 of Madrid's members young and old, raising 900 euros to support foodbanks.*

YWNA AWARD – THE MOST CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Winner: Las Vegas
Runners Up: France and Bangalore
Judges' comments: *What can we say?! A new James Milner song and performed with the (other) 'King' – Elvis Presley!*





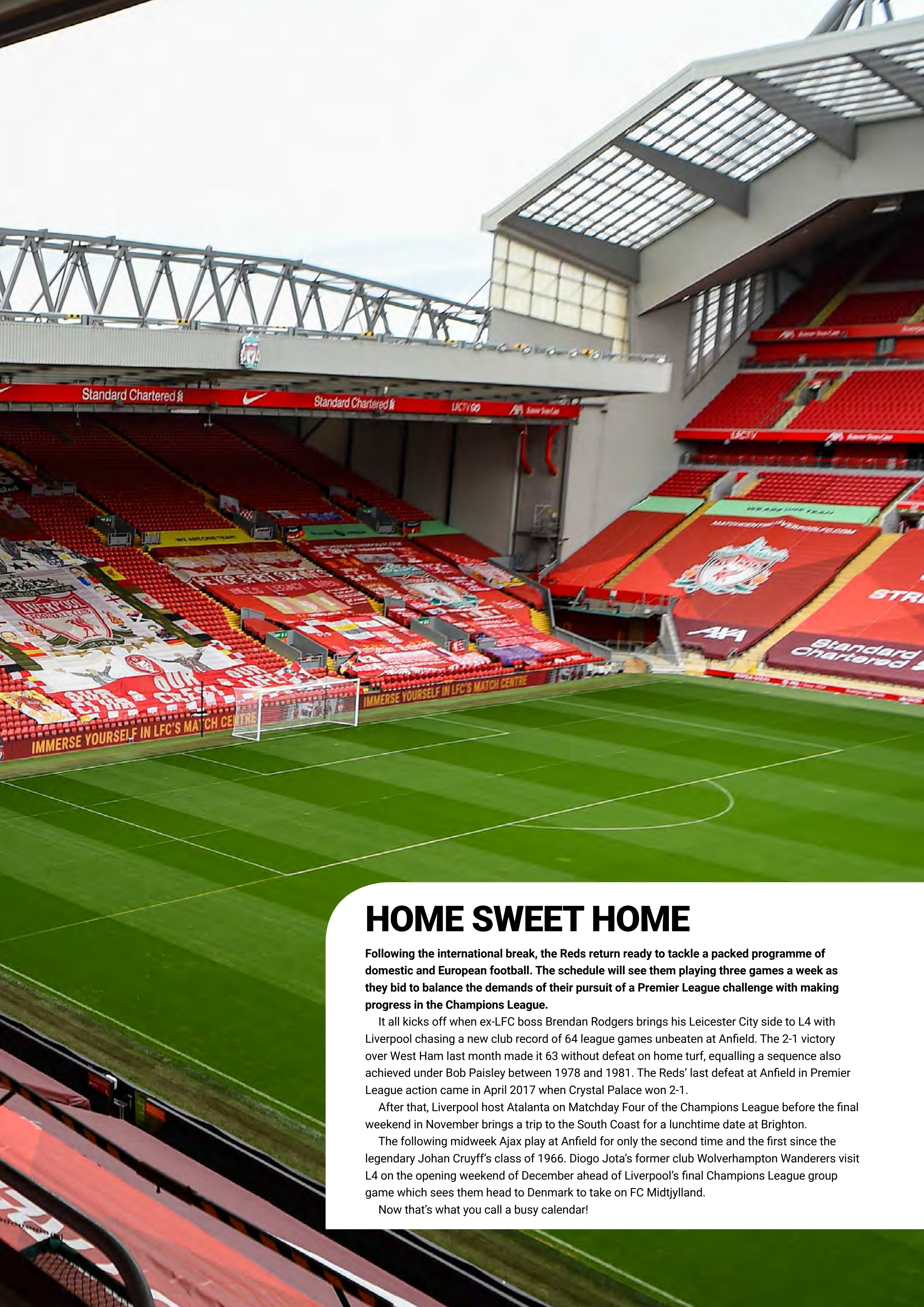
ORIGINAL AWARD – THE MOST INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY

Winner: Kenya
Runners Up: Hong Kong and Iraq
Judges' comments: *Among many of the activities completed by Kenya, it was the 'Bleed with Pride' initiative – donating sustainable feminine hygiene packs which have a five-year lifespan – that really stood out.*

NOV/DEC

WHAT'S ON





HOME SWEET HOME

Following the international break, the Reds return ready to tackle a packed programme of domestic and European football. The schedule will see them playing three games a week as they bid to balance the demands of their pursuit of a Premier League challenge with making progress in the Champions League.

It all kicks off when ex-LFC boss Brendan Rodgers brings his Leicester City side to L4 with Liverpool chasing a new club record of 64 league games unbeaten at Anfield. The 2-1 victory over West Ham last month made it 63 without defeat on home turf, equalling a sequence also achieved under Bob Paisley between 1978 and 1981. The Reds' last defeat at Anfield in Premier League action came in April 2017 when Crystal Palace won 2-1.

After that, Liverpool host Atalanta on Matchday Four of the Champions League before the final weekend in November brings a trip to the South Coast for a lunchtime date at Brighton.

The following midweek Ajax play at Anfield for only the second time and the first since the legendary Johan Cruyff's class of 1966. Diogo Jota's former club Wolverhampton Wanderers visit L4 on the opening weekend of December ahead of Liverpool's final Champions League group game which sees them head to Denmark to take on FC Midtjylland.

Now that's what you call a busy calendar!

NOV/DEC

WHAT'S ON

YOUNG REDS IN ACTION



LFC's Academy teams will be looking forward to some interesting challenges in the weeks ahead. On Tuesday 10 November the Under-21s visit Port Vale in their final EFL Trophy group game of a tournament which has already provided them with invaluable experience in games at Wigan Athletic and Tranmere Rovers.

After that, Barry Lewtas' Under-23s are back on league duty with back-to-back home games which will see them take on Southampton on 21 November and Manchester City on 28 November.

Meanwhile, Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's Under-18s also finish the month with two league fixtures at Kirkby as they come up against Leeds United on 21 November and Burnley seven days later.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

ANNIVERSARIES

13 years since the Reds defeated Turkish side Besiktas 8-0 in a UEFA Champions League group game at Anfield on 6 November 2007.

38 years since Ian Rush scored four in a historic 5-0 away win at Everton on 6 November 1982.

44 years since left-back and cult hero Joey Jones made his Liverpool debut on 9 November 1976.

53 years since Liverpool defeated TSV Munich 8-0 in a European Fairs Cup tie on 7 November 1967.

68 years since Ronnie Moran made his Liverpool debut on 22 November 1952.

5 years since the Reds won 4-1 at Manchester City to claim their first away win under manager Jürgen Klopp on 21 November 2015.

And it's **50** years since centre-forward John Toshack joined from Cardiff City on 11 November 1970...

When Liverpool manager Bill Shankly was in the market for a new striker in November 1970, he went back to his former club, Huddersfield Town, to sign Frank Worthington.

The gifted attacker failed his medical, however, and so Shanks was forced to turn his attention elsewhere.

John Toshack, a 21-year-old Welsh international, had been showing off his rich promise at Cardiff City and the Reds boss needed no persuasion in sanctioning a club-record £110,000 transfer to bring the tall, powerful frontman to Anfield.

When he greeted Toshack at Lime Street Station, he is reported to have said to his new recruit: "Welcome to Liverpool, son. You have come from Sunday school into church."

Toshack made his debut in a goalless stalemate against Coventry City at Anfield and, although he was unable to help his new side break down the Sky Blues' defence that day, he offered glimpses of what was to come.

Liverpool Daily Post reporter Horace Yates wrote the following: "If I have to give an opinion on 90 minutes' observation, I would say Liverpool have bought well..for many, many seasons ahead.

"Toshack gets up well in the air, winning most duels. He moves the ball around well on the ground, his positional sense is good and he is both alive and willing. His work rate was better than I was led to expect, but if it is not a whole lot greater after the Anfield treatment I shall be surprised.

"I asked manager Bill Shankly, 'Were you pleased with the new boy?' He flashed back in reply: 'Why, weren't you?'"

A week later 'Tosh' had won over all his new supporters, scoring the equaliser in the Anfield derby as the Reds famously came from 2-0 down to defeat Everton 3-2.



BIRTHDAYS

John Barnes 57 on 7 November

Patrik Berger 47 on 10 November

Georginio Wijnaldum 30 on 11 November

Jade Bailey 25 on 11 November

Ron Yeats 83 on 12 November

Billy Koumetio 18 on 14 November

Bobby Graham 76 on 22 November

Caoimhin Kelleher 22 on 23 November

Jim Furnell 83 on 23 November

Steve Heighway 73 on 25 November

Xabi Alonso 39 on 25 November

Phil Babb 50 on 30 November





ROBBO

Our Year
My Story

Robbo: Now You're Gonna Believe Us is the inside story of an unrivalled period in the illustrious history of Liverpool Football Club – as seen through my eyes.

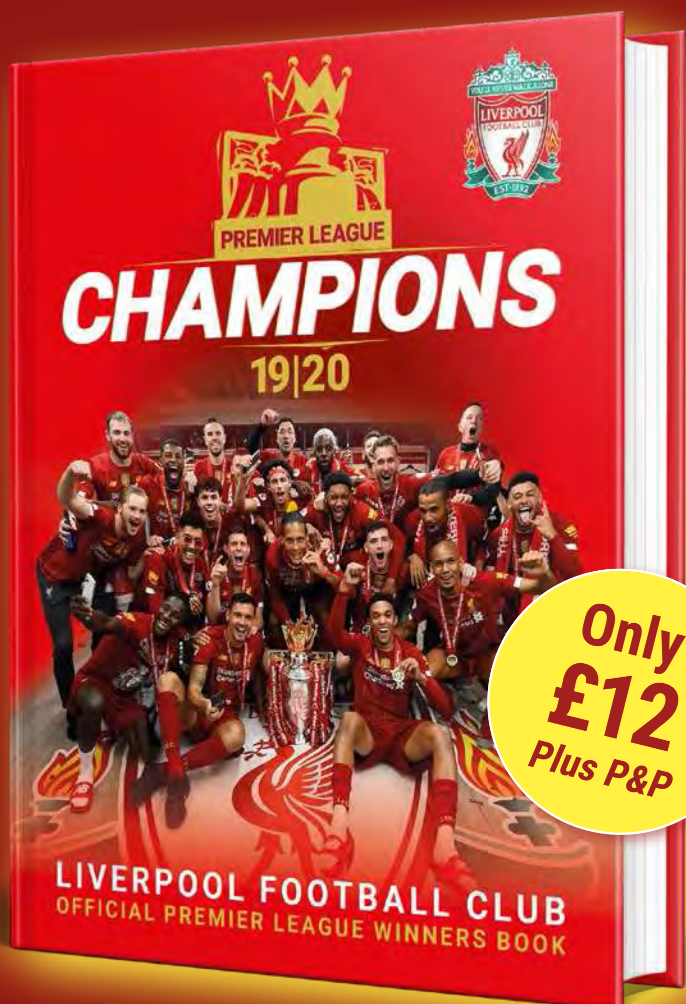
Taking you behind the scenes at Anfield and Melwood, I'll reveal how it all happened – how doubters turned to believers and brought the league title home after a 30-year wait.

From the dressing room to the pitch, this is my story of our year to remember.



Last year we brought you CH6MPIONS OF EUROPE, the brilliant official book commemorating Liverpool's triumph in Madrid with a special scroll of honour inside for fans. This year's companion volume is all about the PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS.

LIVERPOOL FC PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS is a gloriously evocative account of the season that saw Jürgen Klopp's mighty Reds set all sorts of new records as they claimed the title. Now available to pre-order, this commemorative hardback's 320 pages feature exclusive photography, revealing insight from Klopp and his Kop stars, and the season chronicled in full by the editorial team behind the club's monthly magazine and matchday programme. It's produced by LFC's official publishing partners, Reach Sport.



WHAT'S IN



MENS YNWA CHECK PJ SET
£28



WOMENS CHRISTMAS LIVERBIRD PJ SET
£26



ADULT CREAM HAT & SCARF SET
£35

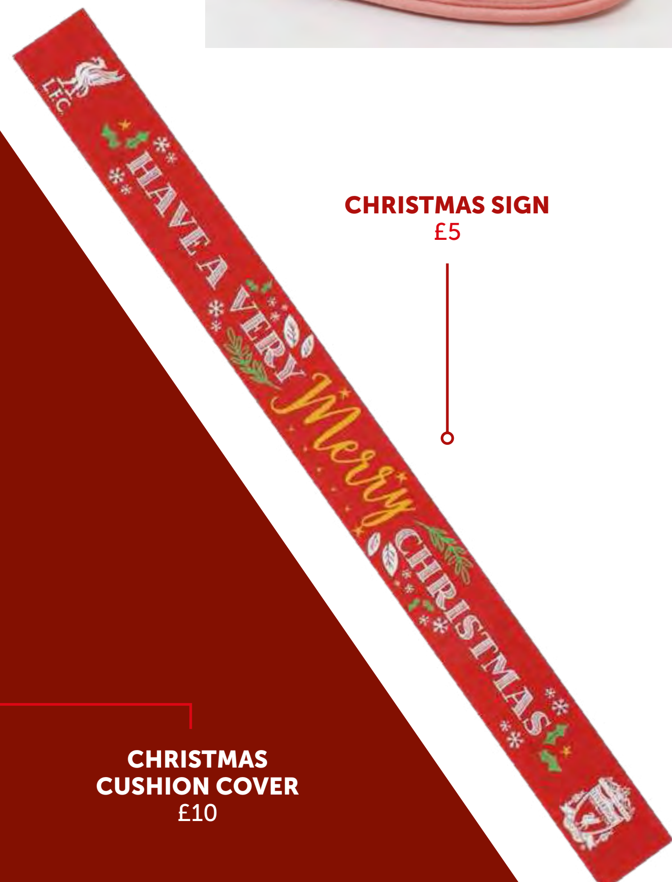
WOMENS PINK SLIPPERS
£15





SNOWMAN BELL BAUBLE
£6

CHRISTMAS SIGN
£5





CHRISTMAS CUSHION COVER
£10

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£20

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Results & Fixtures 2020/21

		SCORE	TV	SCORERS
AUGUST				
Sat 29	Arsenal (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Minamino (pens: Salah, Fabinho, Minamino, Jones)
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 12	**Leeds United (H)**	**4-3**	**Sky**	**Salah 3 (2 pens), Van Dijk**
Sun 20	Chelsea (A)	2-0	Sky	Mane 2
Thurs 24	Lincoln City (A, Carabao Cup 3)	7-2	Sky	Shaqiri, Minamino 2, Jones 2, Grujic, Origi
Mon 28	**Arsenal (H)**	**3-1**	**Sky**	**Mane, Robertson, Jota**
OCTOBER				
Thurs 1	**Arsenal (H, Carabao Cup 4)**	**0-0***	**Sky**	**(pens: Milner, Wijnaldum, Minamino, Jones)**
Sun 04	Aston Villa (A)	2-7	Sky	Salah 2
Sat 17	Everton (A)	2-2	BT	Mane, Salah
Wed 21	Ajax (UCL Matchday 1, A)	1-0	BT	Tagliafico (OG)
Sat 24	**Sheffield United (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky BO**	**Firmino, Jota**
Tue 27	**FC Midtjylland (UCL Matchday 2, H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Jota, Salah (pen)**
Sat 31	**West Ham United (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky**	**Salah (pen), Jota**
NOVEMBER				
Tue 03	Atalanta (UCL Matchday 3, A)	5-0	BT	Jota 3, Salah, Mane
Sun 08	Manchester City (A, 4.30pm)		Sky	
Sat 21	**Leicester City (H)**			
Wed 25	**Atalanta (UCL Matchday 4 H, 8pm)**		**BT**	
Sat 28	Brighton & Hove Albion (A, 12.30pm)		BT	
DECEMBER				
Tue 01	**Ajax (UCL Matchday 5 H, 8pm)**		**BT**	
Sat 05	**Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)**			
Wed 09	FC Midtjylland (UCL Matchday 6 A, 5.55pm)		BT	
Sat 12	Fulham (A)			
Wed 16	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**			
Sat 19	Crystal Palace (A)			
Sat 26	**West Bromwich Albion (H)**			
Mon 28	Newcastle United (A)			
JANUARY				
Sat 02	Southampton (A)			
Sat 09	(FA Cup 3)			
Wed 13	**Burnley (H)**			
Sat 16	**Manchester United (H)**			
Sat 23	(FA Cup 4)			
Wed 27	Tottenham Hotspur (A)			
Sat 30	West Ham United (A)			
FEBRUARY				
Wed 03	**Brighton & Hove Albion (H)**			
Sat 06	**Manchester City (H)**			
Wed 10	(FA Cup 5)			
Sat 13	Leicester City (A)			
Tue/Wed 16/17	(UCL R of 16 1)		BT	
Sat 20	**Everton (H)**			
Tue/Wed 23/24	(UCL R of 16 1)		BT	
Sat 27	Sheffield United (A)			
MARCH				
Sat 06	**Fulham (H)**			
Tue 09/10	(UCL R of 16 2)		BT	
Sat 13	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)			
Tue/Wed 16/17	(UCL R of 16 2)		BT	
Sat 20	**Chelsea (H)**			
Sat 20	(FA Cup 6)			
APRIL				
Sat 03	Arsenal (A)			
Tue 06/07	(UCL Q-F 1)		BT	
Sat 10	**Aston Villa (H)**			
Tue/Wed 13/14	(UCL Q-F 2)		BT	
Sat 17	Leeds United (A)			
Sat 17	(FA Cup S-F)			
Sat 24	**Newcastle United (H)**			
Tue/Wed 27/28	(UCL S-F 1)		BT	
MAY				
Sat 1	Manchester United (A)			
Tue/Wed 04/05	(UCL S-F 2)		BT	
Sat 08	**Southampton (H)**			
Tue 11	West Bromwich Albion (A)			
Sat 15	Burnley (A)			
Sat 15	(FA Cup final)			
Sun 23	**Crystal Palace (H)**			
Sat 29	(UCL final)		BT	







All fixtures subject to change. *lost 5-4 on pens



NEIL MELLOR

Every team has had its injury problems this season, including Liverpool, but the response from the Reds has been impressive



Losing the best central defender in the world to a long-term injury is undoubtedly a huge blow for Jürgen Klopp, but the players who have stepped in for Virgil van Dijk have shown why nobody should write off Liverpool during the big man's absence.

Fabinho filled in initially. He isn't a centre-back but an experienced defensive-minded player who senses danger and has proven he can play there before.

He was doing well – the only goal Liverpool conceded with Fabinho at centre-back was the disputed penalty against Sheffield United – until also getting injured against Midtjylland. That was something Klopp could have done without as Liverpool were already short of a centre-back following Dejan Lovren's departure, but it opened the door for Rhys Williams and Nat Phillips. Both have acquitted themselves very well.

I've always said that every young player has to be ready as you never know when your chance will come in football. When it does come along, you have to take it.

Rhys Williams is only 19 and not only is he still learning and developing as a player, he's a big boy who is still growing. He went out on loan last season to get first-team football with Kidderminster Harriers at a level where he really had to get stuck in.

Not many Academy players are prepared to drop down to non-league level but Rhys did and, three managers later, he was still in their team.

The timing of his loan was unusual – he'd just won the Youth Cup with Liverpool and was a mainstay in the UEFA Youth League team – but I spoke to Rhys and he felt he needed to toughen up. He wanted to really understand the men's game and the National League North was the level where his opportunity came.

Of course, he would love to have played in the Championship or League One but the opportunity didn't come, so fair play to him for going to Kidderminster and giving his all. Some loan players from Premier League teams go to lower-league clubs and think 'I'm a Premier League player', whereas Rhys went to Kidderminster and thought 'I'm a Kidderminster player'. That's why it worked out for him and it improved him as a player.

Experiencing a more physical level of football helped, but so too did coming back and playing alongside Van Dijk against Lincoln City and Arsenal in the Carabao Cup. That will have helped his development and confidence, but it also gave him an opportunity to see what it is like to play alongside the world's best.

Nat Phillips also went out on loan, but to Stuttgart in Bundesliga 2. Nat is a centre-back who is dominant in the air and I think he had some of the highest ratios in the whole division for winning aerial challenges last season.

He was very strong in that area in the 2-1 win against West Ham on his Premier League debut when I thought he was outstanding, but not being registered to play in the Champions League means that the door is open for both himself and Williams to play alongside Joe Gomez until Joel Matip and Fabinho return.

Gomez is still a young centre-half himself who has to manage his body due to previous injuries, but it should also be remembered that Liverpool's defenders have the best goalkeeper in the world behind them. With Alisson in the team – and some of the best attacking players in Europe ahead of them – it isn't all down to them and that should provide confidence.

So too should the way the team responded to losing Van Dijk by winning four consecutive games to go top of both the Premier League and their Champions League group.

Since football resumed after the first lockdown, every team has had problems. It was noticeable against Midtjylland that Liverpool struggled at Anfield without having their fans to lift them. They've conceded the most league goals since football resumed too, yet are still winning games despite several VAR decisions going against them.

To still be winning, given all these circumstances, reminds me of a famous Bill Shankly line: "Aye, here we are with problems at the top of the league."

Don't write this Liverpool team off, even without Virgil van Dijk.

• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33










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